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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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Helping you make
the right choice

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can-do attitude

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SICK CHILD ABUSE FANTASIST JAILED

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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CHILD'S PLAY: The Kingswood Activity Centre has opened in Kennington. Search 'Kingswood'

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Charing paedophile Nicholas Axon has been jailed for 18 months after police found thousands of sick images of child abuse on his computer, which was seized after a tip-off

■ BY ED HILL

A PAEDOPHILE who downloaded more than 4,000 sick images of child abuse has been jailed for 18 months.

Nicholas Axon, 60, from Longbeech, Charing, was arrested in July, last year.

His home was raided by Kent Police after they received a tip-off from another force they will not identify.

Police seized Axon's computer and other equipment under a search warrant, and the digital forensics unit discovered the images on the computer's hard drive. The total of 4,372 pictures included 60 level five category images, which involve sadism and animals.

Axon was charged with eight offences of distributing indecent images of children and 15 offences of making indecent images.

Det Con Jo Gordon, of Kent Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "By distributing child abuse images and fantasising about them in chat with others, Axon continued to victimise the children involved."

Axon pleaded guilty to all 23 offences at Maidstone Magistrates' Court last month.

He will have to sign the sex offenders register and is subject to a sexual offence prevention order (SOPO).

This is a civil order designed to protect the public. It might include such things as restricting access to the internet. Axon will have to obey any conditions imposed on him for at least five years. If he breaches them he could face five years in jail. The head of Kent Police's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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HALL OR NOTHING: The future of Imperial College's Withersdane Hall is still uncertain

Locals angered by college's plan for care home

■ BY ED HILL

A GRAND Victorian house used as halls of residence at Wye College could soon be transformed into an elderly care village.

A full planning application has now been made to Ashford council by the site's owners Imperial College to build a 40-bed care home, and 132 one- and two-bedroom care suites at Withersdane Hall.

The hall was originally purchased by the college to house students in 1945. However, Imperial ended all agricultural courses at Wye in 2005 and the site has been largely unused for more than two years.

The move has angered local people who feel Imperial has gone back on its intention not to develop the site until 2014.

They feel by demolishing the accommodation it will mean that the college will no longer be a viable educational centre in the future.

Yourashford recently reported the private University of Buckingham has expressed an interest in using the campus in the village centre.

But Savills, the property management company employed by Imperial, says it has exhausted all avenues to find a college that would

be willing to take Withersdane on.

In a letter supporting the application, property manager for Imperial Nigel Buck said: "There is no prospect of any academic future for the Imperial facilities at Wye. Continued objections to the proposed alternative uses for its individual sites are not supported by any evidence. Such objections in relation to these current proposals are not in the interests of a sustainable future for Withersdane."

The proposals show that Withersdane Hall would be retained to house people who need more intensive care.

The care village would bring jobs to the area but some locals feel that an influx of elderly residents would raise the average age of people in Wye and put a strain on resources.

Sean Furey from Protect Kent, who lives in the village, said: "People feel that every time a chunk is taken off the college estate, the chances of it being restored to educational use declines."

"Protect Kent is very supportive of all efforts to maintain Wye College as a university campus. You could argue that Withersdane, with its use as student accommodation, is more integral to the university."

"I imagine those at the care village won't be willing to go into Wye and use its services and visitors are unlikely to spend much time there."

Flood risk remains as 30mm of rain falls

HEAVY rainfall over the past week has put a strain on Ashford's rivers.

The Great Stour burst its banks near Wye and fields were flooded off the Kennington Road as 25-30mm of rain fell across the region on Saturday and Sunday.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service was inundated with calls and the Environment Agency dealt with flooding incidents from the Aylesford stream and in Harrietsham.

A spokesman for the agency said: "We are in for a much drier spell over the next few days, but the flood risk remains if have more heavy rainfall."

To check the latest situation, visit the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Surgery staff swim in memory of friend

STAFF at Wye's GP surgery have raised £3,866 for charity by doing a sponsored swim.

Dr Roz Waller and Jill Hills had taken part in 10 swimathons with their friend John Wright before he died of cancer recently.

They were joined by Dr Alex Fox, Dr Bill Crawley, Jo Shepherd, Terry Howells and Carol Baker from the surgery as well as Mr Wright's family in a sponsored swim in his memory at The Kings School Recreation Centre in Canterbury.

Regional Fundraising Manager for the Pilgrim's Hospice Nigel Donkin said: "This is a truly lovely tribute to John Wright, who was an exceptional swimmer and sportsman."

Police crackdown on child abuse offences

FROM FRONT PAGE

Public Protection Unit, Det Supt Maria Shepherd, said: "We are determined to seek out those individuals who abuse children and are engaged in child abuse image offences."

"We will continue to work with partner agencies, including the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), to stop this crime."

Anyone with information about this type of crime can ring CrimeStoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

There is also a website aimed at people involved in this type of crime who want to stop voluntarily. It can be found at www.stopitnow.org.

Jamie gets on his bike for hospice

OLYMPIC gold medallist Jamie Staff will be cycling round Kent to raise money for the Pilgrim's Hospice in May.

He will be taking part in the charity's Tri-Hospice Cycle Challenge along with other cyclists.

The 70-mile route will take Mr Staff, who won the gold medal for the track cycling team sprint in 2008, round each of the hospice's sites in Ashford, Canterbury and Thanet.

On the same day, Sunday, May 9, each hospice town will also be hosting a shorter race of around 15 miles for people of all ages and abilities.

Jamie Staff, who recently moved back to his home town of Ashford, said: "I am proud to have the opportunity to be involved in an event that supports such a worthy cause."

"The sight and sound of hundreds

of cyclists joining together throughout east Kent will be impressive, and as places are limited I urge anyone interested to get online now and ensure your place in the event."

Mr Staff has also agreed to give fellow cyclists training tips on the charity's website so they can take on the challenge.

Deborah Kellond, fundraising manager, said: "This new fundraising event promises to be an adventurous day out for all physically fit cyclists, whether you are experienced or wish to cycle in memory of a loved one."

"We are hoping to raise £50,000 through this event, which will be a sizeable chunk of the £8million we need to raise each year."

To register online, visit www.pilgrimschallenge.org or call 01227 782062.



MEDALLIST: Jamie Staff lends his support

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DENTURE REPAIRS - RELINES & ADDITIONS TO OLD PLATES AVAILABLE

Plans for town are revealed

■ BY ED HILL

THE town plan for the next decade has been rubber-stamped by Ashford council.

It is characterised by rapid growth, with thousands of new houses and businesses planned.

The plan outlines how and where 3,100 houses and 8,000 jobs could be created in the area.

The massive expansion includes 70,000 sq metres of retail and leisure space, as well as 95,000 sq metres of office development.

That is equivalent to building three more County Square extensions by 2021.

The plans include a mixture of shops, leisure facilities and new homes along Elwick Road and a new office and business hub close to the station.

It also proposes significant

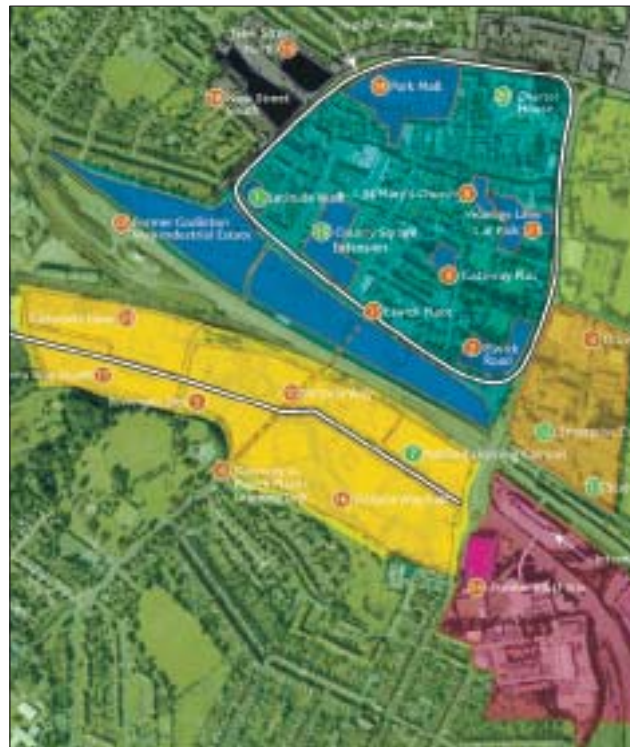
development along Victoria Way, the new link road south of the railway line linking to the station to south Ashford, and possible changes to the Vicarage Lane car park and Park Mall areas.

The Town Centre Area Action Plan forms part of the Local Development Framework and sets out policies which will guide future planning applications.

It is seen as a key economic driver in the town's expansion plans.

Richard Alderton, head of planning and development for Ashford council, said: "An expanded town centre will be the economic engine for Ashford. This plan will help shape future developments and make the town centre a place for people to live, work and enjoy for many years to come."

"The council has adopted the plan ahead of schedule, something which few other local authorities across the country have been able to achieve."



Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON



MAPPING THE FUTURE: A map shows the areas for potential development in Ashford and architectural drawings show how Elwick Square could look in 10 years' time

Man jailed after red diesel crime

A SCRAPYARD owner from Tenterden has been jailed for 22 months after admitting handling stolen red diesel.

Clyde Chapman, 41, of Cranbrook Road, pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods from two large fuel bowsters taken from a building site near Smeeth in December 2008.

A heavy vehicle was thought to have been used to force security gates and fencing surrounding a building site overnight and two bowsters containing fuel worth £6,708.75 in total were stolen.

The next day officers from Kent Police's Serious and Organised Crime unit carried out a search warrant at Chapman's scrapyard in Tenterden and found a bowster between a skip lorry and an excavator.

The fuel was being decanted from one of the stolen bowsters into fuel drums and loaded onto a Nissan Cabstar.

Chapman ran away and was pursued on foot by police officers before being arrested nearby.

The second missing bowster was found on some land owned by Chapman at Redbrook Street, Woodchurch.

On sentencing Chapman at Canterbury Crown Court, Judge Adele Williams took into account his previous record and said the offence "bears all the hallmarks of professional criminality."

She also ordered the confiscation of Chapman's Hitachi excavator.

Detective Constable Dave Godden said: "Kent Police managed to locate the stolen bowsters and arrest the offender within 24 hours of the crime taking place."

"Red diesel is a sought-after commodity by opportunist thieves wanting to profit in the current economic climate."

Businesses and farm-owners need to ensure that they have security measures in place to prevent their fuel being stolen."

Drinking fine delay is sign of the times

NEW powers to curb public drinking in Ashford town centre have been delayed because the council needs new signs.

The Designated Public Places Order, which will apply to the town centre, Victoria Park and areas around the Stour Centre, will mean someone can be arrested if they continue to drink after being told not to by a police officer or PCSO.

The council has been prevented from introducing the laws because new legislation has raised the maximum fine for the offence from £500 to £2,500.

Cllr Claughton, portfolio holder for community safety, told the council executive: "The fine level has to be displayed on the signs so we are waiting for confirmation of when this section comes into effect."

"It is our intention to have the signs in place and the training conducted with the police just as soon as we have the requisite conformation of when the fine levels will increase."

"We are ready to put the required order into place but we have been delayed due to the passing of the Policing and Crime Act 2009."

Council tax rise still lowest across Kent

COUNCIL tax for Ashford is set to rise by 2.77 per cent this year, adding £37.69 per year to the bill for a Band D property.

The decision was made at last week's council meeting.

Ashford council's element of the bill rose by just under 4 per cent.

This year the Government has imposed a three per cent cap on the overall rise in Council Tax, which also includes sums towards policing and other emergency services.

This means the average Band D cost per household from April, excluding parish precepts, will be £1,399.94.

Cllr Peter Davison, who is a member of the council's overview and scrutiny committee, said: "The task group within the overview and scrutiny committee found the budget was achievable subject to provisos."

"Although between our scrutiny and the executive meeting the officers had made some substantial changes. We expect minor changes, but these were large figures within the departments and although the bottom line is the same, we feel these changes should have come back to the committee for re-examination."

The deputy leader of the council, Paul Bartlett, told members there



BUDGET: Deputy leader Paul Bartlett

had been a number of challenges in delivering the budget.

The council received a smaller grant from central government than other councils in the county, but Mr Bartlett said resources had been well managed, and increases in expenditure had been accommodated where necessary.

Mr Bartlett described "a difficult balancing act between managing resources and honouring the council's commitment to provide services for the community and keep rises around the level of inflation."

He also said he was very proud that Ashford still delivered the lowest council tax in Kent.




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ENVIRONMENT TEAM: Doug Wanstall and Frances Clayton will help Kent farmers support wildlife on their land

Campaign aims to help farmers support wildlife

A FARMER from Aldington has been appointed chairman of a national body aimed at promoting environmental agriculture.

Doug Wanstall farms more than 2,300 acres of arable crops, along with cattle, sheep and a large hen farm. He also runs a food hub operation which distributes food and produce from other farmers to supermarkets, hospitals and restaurants.

Mr Wanstall will be heading the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) in Kent. He will liaise with farmers and landowners to show how they can still operate commercially while also benefitting the countryside.

The CFE is a voluntary body launched by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs last November.

It aims to promote three key areas for environmentally-friendly farming: resource protection, farmland birds and farm wildlife.

Mr Wanstall, who is well-known for promoting locally-grown farm produce, said: "We have always sought to create and enhance natural habitats alongside our farming operation at Aldington. Through the CFE, we hope to raise standards of wildlife and resource protection. This is definitely the way forward for farming and the countryside."

Secretary of State for Defra, Hilary Benn, set up the CFE so that the industry could

■ BY ED HILL

take a voluntary approach to environmental management.

It is hoped that the scheme will be as beneficial for wildlife as the old set-aside scheme, in which the EU paid farmers not to cultivate right to the edge of their fields, encouraging more diverse wildlife.

It has been created in association with the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association, and includes groups such as the Environment Agency, RSPB and The Wildlife Trust.

Ben Underwood, from the Country Land and Business Association, said: "The aim is to enhance the farmed environment in a way that does not compromise farm businesses and provides opportunities for the industry to show off the voluntary conservation work being undertaken on many holdings. The coordinators will arrange local events on demonstration farms, providing guidance and ultimately gaining the support of as many farmers and landowners as possible."

Mr Wanstall will be joined by campaign coordinator Frances Clayton, who lives on a 2,500-acre farm near Sevenoaks.

She said: "This is a great opportunity to voluntarily create new habitats for farmland birds and other wildlife that fit in with their farming operations."

yourashford

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foundation's new trustee

THE Caldecott Foundation in Smeeth which looks after children who have suffered cruelty and neglect has announced the appointment of a new trustee.

Matthew Huggins spent five years at the foundation as a child. He has since become an expert in child care and campaigner on children's rights.

He said: "If it wasn't for Caldecott, I wouldn't have achieved the success I have today."

"I want to help ensure that Caldecott children are given the very best opportunities to maximise their own talents, and help them achieve their own goals in life."

The 29-year-old went into care after suffering at the hands of an abusive stepfather. He came to Caldecott in 1992 after unhappy experiences at other care homes. He has vividly chronicled his experience in a book which was launched at the Houses of Parliament last year.

Two deny brutal murder

TWO men from Ashford have denied murder at Maidstone Crown Court.

Christopher Goldfinch, 22 and Scott Stevens, 23, were charged with the murder of Paul Hopkins, who was beaten up outside his home in Beechholme Drive last summer.

Mr Hopkins, 32, suffered serious head injuries in the attack and died in Kent and Canterbury Hospital in November.

Christopher Goldfinch pleaded not guilty to murder. Scott Stevens did not enter a plea. Both denied manslaughter. They were remanded in custody until May 17.

Ram-raid at clothes shop

CROOKS have made off with clothes worth thousands of pounds after ram-raiding a shop in Headcorn.

The raid happened in the village high street at about 3am on February 23, when a witness reported seeing a 4x4 vehicle being driven into the front of Lady Mop store.

Three men, all wearing hooded tops, were seen taking part in the raid.

The 4x4 is believed to be a dark old-style Jeep Cherokee. It was later seen driving towards Tenterden. Anyone who saw it or who has information can call 01795 419161 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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Eurostar service resumes after crash

EUROSTAR'S full service to Brussels returned to normal on Tuesday after a crash between two commuter trains near the Belgian capital.

The accident meant the company had to run a reduced service for nearly three weeks.

Passengers have had to use a shuttle coach service from Lille in France to travel to Brussels while the track was repaired.

Eurostar says a speed restriction will be in place in the Brussels area which will add approximately five minutes to journey times and passengers are advised that other short delays could still occur.

Passengers can board the Ashford to Brussels service at 6.57am on weekday mornings.

For the latest timetable call 08432 186186.



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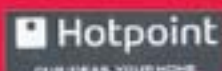
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Decision to be made on airport expansion plan

■ BY ED HILL

A FINAL decision about the future of Lydd airport will be made this week.

The airport, also known as London-Ashford, wants to extend the runway by 300 metres and build a 500,000 capacity passenger terminal at the site.

The plans have proved controversial, particularly amongst environmentalists who say if the expansion programme is allowed to go ahead it will have a massive impact on the wildlife of Romney Marsh.

Ashford council, as the neighbouring borough, has objected to the plans. It feels building the terminal would put a strain on Ashford's roads, particularly junction 10 of the M20, if many new passengers were attracted to the airport.

It also objects to increased flights over the borough and has concerns about the safety of nearby Dungeness nuclear power station.

Jonathan Gordon, managing director of the airport, said: "We have invested £27 million in Lydd in recent years and plan to invest a further £25 million in the project to deliver a modern sustainable regional airport that Kent can be proud of."

The company says the new airport will bring 500 much-needed jobs to the area.



CONTROVERSY:
A new terminal to accommodate 500,000 passengers and a 300-metre extension to the runway are being opposed at Lydd airport

Mr Gordon added: "This is a significant private sector investment in the future of the Romney Marsh, at no cost to the public purse."

A full meeting of Shepway council will vote on the application this Wednesday. Its own officers have recommended that it should be rejected.

A concerted campaign against the airport has been led by the Lydd Airport Action Group.

Louise Barton, from the group, said: "The number of jobs produced from this expansion will be very small due to the lost tourism."

Pressure group Protect Kent has also come out against the proposals. Its director Dr Hilary Newport said: "We have long argued that an

expanded airport at Lydd would have an unacceptable impact on the tranquillity of Romney Marsh that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

"The expansion would blight the quality of life for residents and there would be unacceptable impacts on fragile wildlife habitats."

Many expect the airport to call for a public enquiry if the plans are rejected.

Dr Newport added: "If the decision is made not to expand Lydd Airport, we urge the backers of the scheme not to appeal, because it would only serve to waste further taxpayers' money."

Appeal for clues after lead thefts

POLICE are hunting a man after a string of lead thefts from properties in Kennington and Singleton.

The properties targeted between February 14 and 22 include three residential properties in Beechholme Drive, Kennington and a school in Wesley School Road, Singleton.

In one case the thief was disturbed by the homeowner. He is a white, male, aged 19 to 20, 5ft 8in tall, medium build, unshaven and he spoke with a southern accent.

Police would like to speak to anyone who has information about the thefts. Witnesses can call 01303 289180 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Villagers invited to discuss play park

ANOTHER meeting is being held for people in Appledore to shape the future of the play park.

After an earlier meeting, ideas included more equipment for toddlers, a place for picnics and fencing to protect the space from stray footballs.

At the next meeting villagers will be able to see sketched designs from ideas put forward at the first session and discuss them with the recreation ground committee, Ashford council and Kent Children's Fund Network.

The exhibition will be at the sports pavilion at the Appledore recreation ground on Saturday, March 6, from 10.30am to 3pm.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

NORMAN BRICE

Picture: Maryn Barnwell



Q Can you tell us about the history of the railway?

A The Kent & East Sussex Railway was the very first to be built under the provisions of the Light Railway of 1896. The first section of the line was opened on April 2, 1900 from Robertsbridge to a station at Tenterden. In 1903 an extension up the hill to the present Tenterden Town Station was opened and onwards to Headcorn was opened in 1905.

The line staggered along in the 1930s and was saved from closure by the war. The line between Robertsbridge and Headcorn offered a diversion route when others were cut by enemy action. By 1961 nearly all traffic had gone and the railway closed. A group of volunteers tried to reopen it but this was early days of preserved railways and the government was opposed to amateurs playing trains. Ministry approval was granted for the reopening from Tenterden to Bodiam in 1974. Further progress was steady but "Challenge Anneka (Rice)" opened Northiam in 1990 and it reached Bodiam in 2000.

Q How did you get involved?

A Sometime in the mid 1970s I was driving down the A28 to Rye when I went over an abandoned level crossing at Northiam and there, on the derelict station building, was a notice asking for volunteers to rebuild the line. For many years I worked as a signalman controlling the trains but in 1996 the board of directors

was looking to complete the last link to Bodiam. Having some experience of government and European grant funding, I was invited to join the board as funding director and then when the Bodiam extension started in earnest, as chairman of the subsidiary construction company Bodiam 2000 Ltd. In 2000 I was elected as chairman of the Trustees.

Q Why do you think steam trains seem to have such a long lasting appeal?

A Steam trains appeal to different age groups at different levels. Older generations will remember travelling on them to school and work; my memories are of the Atlantic Coast Express to Plymouth. Younger people do not remember them the same way and for some of our young visitors, this will be the first time. Steam engines exude power, heat and unforgettable smells of steam and smoke. Yet they are approachable and controlled, not like the jet engine. And it is not just the engines themselves but the experience of steam train travel – the clickety clack on the rail joints; an engine puffing hard to climb the steep hill into Tenterden.

Q Can you tell us something about what is happening on the railway this year?

A Details of all our events can be found on the website www.kesr.org.uk. New this year is The Weald's Big Day Out on March 28 when children can travel for free with a paying adult and also enjoy free entry into Bodiam Castle.

Q How does the railway support itself?

A As an educational charity, we are completely dependent for our income on welcoming visitors and showing them something of the history of steam railways. Passengers buy tickets to ride on our trains and they also visit our buffet and shop. But we also have a full range of services including the opportunity to learn to drive a train. All these generate the revenue we need to maintain and restore our fleet of vintage locomotives, carriages and wagons. We have 2,000 members, 300 are active volunteers, carrying out practically every sort of duty on the railway.

Q Do you have any plans to extend the track or get more engines?

A We would always be interested in acquiring more rolling stock which is appropriate to our rural light railway and extending the line beyond Bodiam to Robertsbridge with the Rother Valley Railway Ltd.

Q Why should people come and visit the K&ESR?

A It is a fantastic day out. Take the train to Bodiam, walk over to the National Trust's famous moated castle, and enjoy a cream tea on the way back. Savour the sights, sounds and smells of a steam engine. But if you are looking for more, soak up the atmosphere of a genuine rural light railway snaking its way along the valley floor and across the marsh.

Q&A

Norman Brice, chairman of Trustees of Kent & East Sussex Railway in Tenterden spoke to **Ed Hill** about his love of steam trains, the magical experiences they offer to different generations and events happening this year

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Rotary day highlights fight to eradicate polio

■ BY ED HILL

MEMBERS of Ashford's Rotary Club gathered at County Square last week to celebrate the group's work in tackling polio.

It coincided with the anniversary of the founding of the Ashford branch back in 1922.

Polio Plus, the organisation's most ambitious programme, has tackled the disease in the UK and across the world.

The virus is highly contagious and attacks the nervous system. It can cause severe disability or even death.

Immunisation

There have been serious outbreaks in Kent, including one in Ashford in 1950, but thanks to the club's immunisation programme, it has been eliminated from the UK since 1985.

Ashford's Rotary celebrations saw the Mayor of Ashford, Cllr John Holland, cutting a birthday cake. It was then shared with visitors to the club's information area at the shopping centre.

Rotary has raised more than £1 billion to help eradicate the disease worldwide.

The Polio Plus programme helps Rotary fund operational costs, such as transportation, vaccine delivery, social mobilization and training of health workers.

The charity works to encourage both donor and polio-affected Governments to commit



END POLIO NOW: Mayor John Holland cuts the cake with members of the Rotary Day held at County Square

the political and financial resources needed to eradicate polio.

Many visitors at the Ashford event talked about how they had been affected by polio. They continue to get symptoms many years

later from a continuation of the inflammatory process and gave firsthand accounts if its paralysing effects.

It is estimated that there are still around 125,000 survivors in the UK alone.

Police in plea for witnesses to sex attack

POLICE have described three more people who were in the Godinton area at the time of a serious sexual assault.

They say they would like to speak to a woman who was walking with two children and their bikes through Godinton Park.

The attack happened on the evening of Tuesday, January 26.

It is believed the family had come from the Springwood Close area into the park.

Officers are also appealing to a dog walker who they think may have witnessed the attack.

Tall

He is described as white with dark hair. He was wearing a long coat and his dog was a medium sized, short-haired brown breed, wearing a black or blue coat with a red trim.

A 27-year-old local woman was attacked as she walked down an alleyway between Cypress Avenue and Springwood Close in the Godinton.

The offender was white, 6ft tall, medium build with short dark hair. He was wearing black or blue jogging bottoms with a dark long-sleeved jacket that rustled as he moved. He had white trainers with a black/blue arch, possibly Reeboks.

Investigations are continuing including forensic reports, and anniversary checks were held last week. No similar attacks have been reported in the area.

If you are one of the witnesses mentioned or you have any information about the incident, call 01303 289600 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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The NHS logo, consisting of the letters 'NHS' in white on a blue rectangular background.A photograph of three people in a room, laughing heartily. In the foreground, a man with brown hair is laughing, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. Behind him, another man is visible, and to the right, a woman with blonde hair is also laughing. The background shows a wooden door and a wall.

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The Smokefree logo, featuring a stylized blue icon of a person with arms raised, above the word 'SMOKEFREE' in white capital letters on a dark blue background.

SMOKEFREE

County providing welcome haven to feathered friends



ON THE UP: Numbers of avocets have shown a healthy increase around Kent's coast during recent years – milder winters are thought to have benefited them

Picture CHRIS COMERSALL (www.rspb-images.com)

■ BY NICK AMES

A NEW report entitled Waterbirds In The UK 2007/08 has highlighted the importance of Kent as a winter destination for winged visitors.

Each winter this country sees the arrival of millions of waterbirds from the Arctic and northern Europe.

Dungeness, The Swale and the Medway estuary are all prime destinations in the county for thousands of birds.

Dungeness is listed in the report as being internationally important for two species, shoveler and mute swan. In the last five years the area and nearby Rye Bay supported an average of 36,165 birds.

Meanwhile, The Swale supported an average of 79,361 birds over the last five years, with black-tailed godwit, golden plover and pintail occurring in internationally important numbers.

The Medway has three species occurring in internationally important numbers – avocet, pintail and black-tailed godwit.

Over the last five years it has supported an average of 29,413 birds.

Dr Mark Avery, the RSPB's conservation director, said: "Two aspects of this long-running study really stand out.

"Firstly, that bird populations change over time and understanding this is critical to developing future conservation strategies.

"Secondly, that the UK's wetlands, and particularly those on the coast, are of enormous importance to the survival of a great number of waterbirds which migrate from many other countries.

"The protection and wise management of our wetlands is a priority to ensure that they continue to provide a lifeline to bird populations in the face of climate change."

Shifting

An analysis of the 50 most widespread winter-visiting wetland birds showed there had been some dramatic changes over the last decade – and emphasised the importance of protecting sites such as The Swale, the Medway and Dungeness in the face of a UK-wide decline in some species.

Birds faring the worst compared with a decade ago included ringed plover, pochard, bar-tailed godwit and Greenland white-fronted goose.

However, on a positive note, the five species recording the greatest increases over the period included little egret, whooper swan, black-tailed godwit, avocet and barnacle goose.

For some declining species, such as ringed plover and bar-tailed godwit, it seems they are shifting away from wintering in the UK, choosing instead to spend the winter in continental Europe.

Those species which have increased in numbers have been increasing for a variety of reasons.

Avocets are believed to have increased because of milder winters and targeted conservation action, while black-tailed godwits and whooper swans, which migrate from

Winged spectacle on your doorstep

DUNGENESS, The Swale and the Medway estuary all offer excellent opportunities to watch birds.

Viewing hides have been set up on Elmley Marshes RSPB reserve, while the unusually-named Horrid Hill at Riverside Country Park, near Gillingham, offers 360-degree views over the Medway estuary.

The expanse of mudflats and the wide skies contribute to the excellent viewing conditions and, despite its name, Horrid Hill is one of the most attractive sites in north Kent for birdwatchers.

Dungeness is internationally regarded as an excellent site for birdwatchers and its bird observatory is a registered charity with a warden present between March and November.

Its main recording area – where bird numbers are compiled – is the south-eastern corner of the shingle promontory that juts into the western limits of the Strait of Dover.

A daily record is kept of all birds spotted in the area and this is available for visitors to consult.

The main threat to the county's bird population is development, with proposals for an expansion of Lydd airport and plans for an offshore airport in the Thames estuary being of particular concern.

The huge number of new houses being planned for the county will also put tremendous strain on its environment.

Iceland, are thought to be increasing because of subtle changes in farming there, possibly linked to climate change.

The annual report is based on the fieldwork of some 3,000 bird-surveyors participating in synchronized monthly counts at wetlands, including estuaries, marshes, lakes and reservoirs, across the UK.

Chas Holt, of the British Trust for Ornithology, said: "The changes in waterbird populations identified each year by the Wetland Bird Survey highlight the importance of monitoring our wetlands.

"Without the dedicated efforts of volunteers throughout the UK, we would know far less than we do about how our waterbird populations are faring, and which sites are of most importance for them.

"Future research and conservation efforts, both at the national and international level, can be suitably directed using information collected by these volunteers."

Partners

Richard Hearn, head of species monitoring at the World Wildlife Fund, said: "Where declines of these migratory waterbirds have been noted in the UK, we must guard against assuming these birds are wintering further east in parts of Europe previously too cold.

"Climate-related changes in distribution have the potential to mask more serious conservation problems, so it is more important than ever that we get the complete picture by working with partners abroad to monitor these birds across their flyways."

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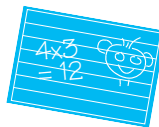
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BREAK TIME

England debut for student athlete

AN 18-year-old student at the Ashford School has just made her debut running for the England athletic team.

Grace Nicholls ran at the Lotto Cross Cup meeting in Belgium. She managed to come second in the junior ladies 4,600m race with a time of 15 minutes and 31 seconds, just behind her UK team-mate Katheryn Avery.

The athlete is in her final year at Ashford School and was selected having medalled at the South of England Championships in London last month.

The previous week she had a good win at Kent Schools Championship, coming in first, one minute ahead of the runner in second place.



WINNING STREAK: Grace heads to victory

Text service success

TENTERDEN CE Primary School has introduced a new text-messaging system to keep parents informed.

The trial has been a success and proved to be particularly useful during the recent snowy weather when many schools had to close.

Historic name change sums up future of new academy

■ BY ED HILL

THE Christ Church School in Millbank Road near Kingsnorth has revealed what its new name will be when it becomes an academy next year.

The school will be known as The John Wallis Church of England Academy.

John Wallis was a 17th-century mathematician and priest who came from Ashford. He was born in 1616, the same year that William Shakespeare died.

After growing up in Ashford and Tenterden he went to Cambridge to study to be a doctor.

However, his interest in medical matters soon faded and he became more interested in mathematics, initially through his intrigue for ciphers and codes.

During the English Civil War he helped the Parliamentarians decipher messages sent by the Royalists. However, he fell out with the parliamentary cause when they decided to execute Charles I. He then concentrated on his academic career.

In 1649 he made the move to Cambridge's great rival Oxford, to become professor of geometry.

He is credited with making major breakthroughs in trigonometry, calculus and geometry and is famed for his mental-arithmetic talents.

On one night he calculated the square root of a number with 53 digits in his head and in the morning he dictated the 27 digit square root of the number entirely from memory.



WHAT'S IN A NAME: The Christ Church School will be named after John Wallis (above) when it becomes an academy

The new Church of England academy will be headed by John McParland, currently the headteacher at a Catholic secondary school in Maidstone.

He said: "I have already met some members of staff and look forward to meeting, students, parents, governors and members of the community, both formally and informally over the coming months. I am committed to ongoing dialogue about all aspects of the academy as plans for it develop."

He is expected to begin at the school in April and work alongside the current head, Catherine Barber, before fully taking over in

September.

The new school will educate children aged between 11 and 18 in Stanhope and South Ashford.

It will be backed by the Church of England, but admission to the school will be non-denominational.

Academy schools receive most of their funding directly from the Government. They also have a specialist subject that they promote, such as science or sport.

They are often created to turn round schools that are considered not to be reaching government targets.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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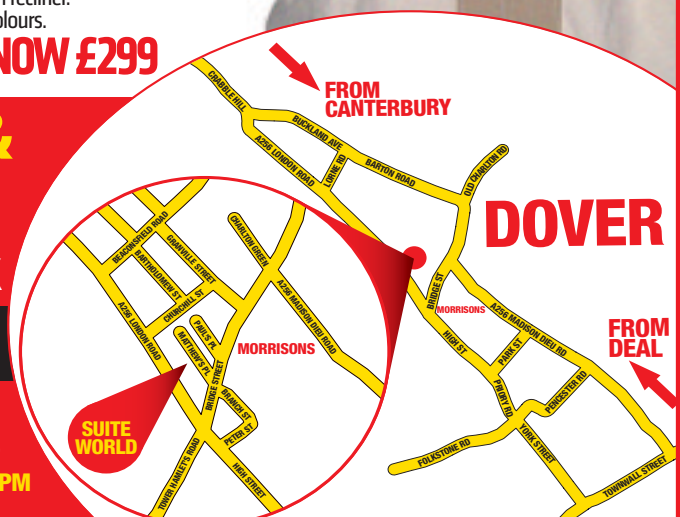


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YOUR LETTERS

Shared space scheme wins national prize

Project is a waste of shared space

Comment

Had only one you was email and letter to respond to our star, don't forget you can now send us your letters too. Don't miss out on the chance to win a national prize. Share your thoughts on the subject of the letter. Simply click on the link and send your letter to us.

Project is a waste of shared space

According to shared space expert, the shared space scheme has been a success and has won a national prize. However, the shared space scheme has been a waste of money and has caused a lot of problems. The shared space scheme has been a waste of money and has caused a lot of problems. The shared space scheme has been a waste of money and has caused a lot of problems.

I agree, it's 100 metres of disaster

I agree with Terry Hudson, the ringroad is a disaster, it is mostly one lane of road with massive wide pavements either side, in particular the road from the metal dome roundabout going up to turn left for A28, A20 and M20.

One lane is stupid, did the person who designed this ever bother to drive up this road? It can easily take 10 to 20 minutes to go 100 metres to turn left – most cars are turning left to get onto the motorways, or to Lidl, Farmfoods, Sainsburys, Waitrose, etc.

There should at least be a filter light for the left turn, it would not change the sequence of the traffic lights, as the cars can turn left at the same time cars from New St are turning right, the pavement there is about three times the width of the road.

The council, due to all the grants from this government, is building more and more housing around the town centre, I never travel in rush hour, I cannot imagine how long it takes people in the morning trying to get to work, to drive to the end of this 100metres.

Jackie Bushe, Ashford

Labour – we don't like what we see

Prime Minister Gordon Brown launched the Labour Party's general election campaign this weekend with the plea that the public should trust him as a caring politician. He also gave a strong hint that the General Election may be on May 6 at the same time as the local elections.

To do so he would need to dissolve Parliament on April 8. Am I a cynic or will he call it mid-March but keep the election on May 6 just so that he can avoid having a Budget on March 18. That way 'The Easter Bully' would not have to be honest with voters and say what he is going to do about Britain's near-£200 billion debt before the election. Thus avoiding frightening voters and the international money markets.

In launching Labour's election campaign Gordon Brown asked us to 'give Labour a second look' with the slogan 'Labour will make a fairer future for all'.

So let's have a 'second look' look at what Labour has done to Britain over the last 13 years.

your blogger

The Greek financial crisis could be good news for British sunseekers, says Gary Wright



THE thing I've resented most about the credit crunch has been how expensive it's become to go abroad.

But that's about to change. As the banking crisis led to global recession, I watched the value of my holiday pound slump.

This was in large part due to our Government's solution to the problem, quantitative easing, or printing money as most African dictators would know it.

A cheap pound makes our products more saleable abroad, unfortunately we don't produce much and our one big skill – financial services – is no longer in such great demand.

And weren't our chums across the Channel happy? The Germans, Belgians and French quickly realised Angleterre was the place for a bargain.

They came across, shopping for clothes and shoes, then wondered why we weren't visiting Calais quite so often any more.

Well you wouldn't, would you? Tesco wine is cheaper over here and I'm not comfortable paying eight quid for a bit of cheese made from sheep milk.

Anyway, the annual Wright family excursion has been a little squeezed in the past couple of years because of GB Ltd's financial mess.

Portugal and Mallorca, turned out to be a bit pricey last year, and even Turkey the previous year admitted prices were up and Brits weren't spending

as much. No wonder.

I can get a fried breakfast cheaper in a transport café here than I could in sunny Marmaris. And that's not the way it should be. Because the idea of a holiday abroad is that it's so cheap you can come home and tell everyone how four of you ate out, drank gallons of the local booze, took a taxi back and still had so many pesetas/drachmas/lire left out of a tenner.

But for the past 18 months we've had to scrimp and visiting Med hotspots has become a bit pricey.

However, those nice Greeks are set to make it all better again. I love Greece. Holidays there have always been fun, sunny and cheap. But it's in real financial trouble and finally having to face up to economic reality.

France and Germany are pretty cross with Greek PM George Papandreu, since they have propped up the euro while our Mediterranean pals enjoy the benefits of stable interest rates and currency exchange.

Merkel and Sarkozy, along with the IMF, have given George a bit of a kicking, demanded he cut borrowing and spending, otherwise the country's international credit rating will resemble Zimbabwe's.

The Greek crisis has highlighted a dangerous weakness in the euro, proving that an interest rate and currency that stretches across borders 2,000 miles apart won't work unless everyone is sensible.

And that means the euro will become less attractive, will fall in value and we Brits can enjoy cheap holidays again. Retsina all round then.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Yes we have had a second look at Gordon Brown and his failed Labour Government and the majority of voters will reject them, whenever the election. He may be able to get away with bullying his staff but he will not do it with the voters.

We have looked again at Labour and do not like what we see. We need change from Gordon Brown and this miserable Labour Government.

John Burke, Bapchild

Reduce rent and get shops open again

Kent Green Party is urging owners of commercial premises such as shops to lower their rents to try to attract tenants. With all town centres in Kent and Medway showing vacancies, one way a double-dip recession may be avoided is to create new opportunities using empty shops.

Empty shopfronts are apparent in every town centre in Kent. A major barrier to the use of these properties is the level of commercial rent expected by owners. Would it not be better to have some income and keep properties in better repair through use rather than have an empty shop and no income? The combined initiative of Kent's local councils, the No Use Empty campaign has made some steps towards putting properties into use. But the process could be speeded up if commercial landlords were

willing to reduce rents, if necessary for short leases, to get property into use. There is considerable scope for regeneration of urban centres based on refurbishment, rather than new build if the roughly 22,000 empty homes across Kent and Medway are put back into use too. Town centre shops need customers. Town centre residents make good customers.

If these efforts are made in combination with raising energy efficiency and the use of solar technology for energy supply, then businesses could also have lower energy costs in the future. Green Party research indicates that a Green New Deal package could create one million sustainable jobs.

Making full use of existing buildings is a key part of this.

Hazel Dawe, Kent Green Party

yourashfordblogger

Don't Miss suggests that gardeners should make way for more pragmatic concerns.

You won't hear the word 'sorry' at the bottom of a Kent pothole

Don't Miss suggests that gardeners should make way for more pragmatic concerns.

Our money's going on european roads

Your blogger on February 24 raising concerns about potholes and the state of our roads prompts me to send the following for readers to

be made aware of.

Between 2007 and 2013 the EU at Brussels is spending billions of euros on road building and repairs across the EU member countries in central and eastern Europe.

Brussels is urging the rapid expansion of its Trans-European Transport Network (TEN) which will eventually stretch the length and breadth of Europe.

With Britain now the major contributor to Brussels' yearly spend of more than 650 billion euros, British taxpayers can expect life in general here to consist of more crumbling roads and deteriorating services everywhere, because our money is being spent, with the approval of all the major political parties, on supporting all other countries in the EU and beyond.

How much longer will people here put up with this ludicrous situation before doing something to bring it all to an end?

Roger Arnold, by email

FOR GREAT FOOD SEE OUR EATING OUT GUIDE INSIDE

CALL CENTRE CLOSURE COULD COST 128 JOBS

CEARED UP FOR ADVENTURE

I hope closure sees building destroyed

Yourashford last week highlighted the sad end to Alliance and Leicester's relationship with our town.

I would like to pass on my sympathy to the 128 people who are set to lose their jobs.

I hope the departure from this company will make someone consider tearing down the monstrosity Charter House, which has blighted our town for so long.

The sooner it goes, the better.

Charles Tomkins, by email

Lying driver caught on speed cam fined £800

Speeding driver was not a fine example

Speeding driver was not a fine example

Amazing to see a woman who lied about driving her car past a speed camera was fined only £800.

What about her employer, who she said claimed she was at work when the offence took place and what about the huge waste of police time.

I don't like speed cameras, they are just a tax raising con. But this woman's attitude to the law is a terrible example.

I hope the authorities do something.

Name and address withheld

Cricketer Geraint's charity golf day

MARTHA Trust hosts its third annual Geraint Jones charity golf day.

Players with a maximum handicap of 24 for men and 30 for women are invited to Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich, on Friday, March 19.

Teams of four will be joined by Kent cricketer Geraint Jones MBE and John Shepherd, the former West Indies international and Kent player.

The 18 holes, followed by a two-course dinner and charity auction will cost £70 per player – £40 per member – with proceeds going to the Deal-based trust.

Crack drug charge after cops seizure

A MAN has been charged with possession with intent to supply crack cocaine.

John Whiteman, 42, of Tupman Close, Rochester, was arrested inside the Pentagon Shopping Centre in Chatham.

Officers seized 73 wraps of crack cocaine, a class A drug.

He has been charged with possession Medway Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, March 3.

Herald memorial

THE annual service to commemorate those who died in the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster is at St Mary's Church, Dover, at 11am on Saturday.

A window in the church honours the 193 people who died when the ferry capsized in March, 1987.

Anniversary tribute to Few who took on the Luftwaffe

■ BY NICK AMES

THIS summer – the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain – will see a gathering of veterans at the official memorial to the heroes of the RAF.

On Sunday, July 11, former airmen will parade before Prince Michael of Kent at Capel-le-Ferne, while Spitfire and Hurricane fighters and a Lancaster bomber roar overhead.

The public is invited to attend what is sure to be a special day at the memorial, which includes a wall inscribed with the names of men who lost their lives, a sculpture of a pilot gazing out to sea and replica Hurricane and Spitfire fighter planes.

Cadets from all three branches of the armed services will attend, along with the band of the RAF. Standards from RAF squadrons will also be paraded on the day.

A spokesman said: "It's sure to be a great day. But as well as veterans, dignitaries and cadets, the public are also invited along and pay their respects."

The Battle of Britain took place in the



TOP FLIGHT: Replica Spitfire at the Capel memorial

summer of 1940 after Hitler's Nazi forces had taken control of France and the Low Countries.

As a prelude to a planned invasion of Britain, the Luftwaffe was ordered to destroy the Royal Air Force which it greatly outnumbered. Raids lasted until the autumn as Fighter Command fended off waves of German bombers and tangled with their escorting ME109 and ME110 fighters.

Eventually the raids stopped and the threat of invasion was lifted – giving rise to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's famous tribute: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

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WOMEN seeking men

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun! To-be-with, football-blond, blonde female, 25, 5ft, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft8, medium-curved body, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, films, walks, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vgs, like to meet a man, 30-35 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 433984

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse-riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship, Tunbridge Wells. Box 306734

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more. Box 877957

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5'4", brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 426656

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build, I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

DON'T LET ME DOWN Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446884

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5ft4, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968

FROM ME TO YOU

Lonely and bored single professional Asian lady, 40, seeks genuine single solvent professional white male, 40-50, for companionship and more. Tunbridge Wells. Box 464925

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, W/LTM a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897963

CALL ME Single, Asian lady, 41, living in Tunbridge Wells, I'm easygoing and fun loving and W/LTM single male to spend time with. Box 465481

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TLC ON OFFER Bubbly, happy, outgoing 41yr old female, enjoy life to the full, like writing, walking, watching DVDs, W/LTM like-minded, happy-go-lucky, clean male for friendship and more. Box 459271

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

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NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals, W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes, enjoys cinema, eating out and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466812

IT THE BULLY! Fit and healthy woman, average build, I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Maidstone. Box 466419

STAY TRUE Attractive, curvy, single mum, size 18, 44, kind, genuine, 5'5", loyal, loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 461830

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-riding. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

MUST MAKE ME LAUGH! Young mid 40's female, looking to meet a genuine single male for friendship and eventual long term relationship. Rochester. Box 855449

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

POSSIBLE LTR African lady, full figured and radiant! I'm a christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre, W/LTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617

COME ON OVER Fun-loving gal, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Gillingham Box 854480

TAKE IT EASY Maidstone female, 47, looking for someone just for initial company and friendship. Many interests including gardening, cooking and shopping. Box 464973

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced and happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build, W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

BY MY SIDE Curvy woman, 49, 5ft10, enjoys being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, cross-words, and reading, seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 44524

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

MEANT TO BE? Very honest, reliable and trustworthy person, 52, 5ft7, blonde with blue eyes, loves cinema, meals out and nights out, seeking sociable male with same interests. Ashford. Box 466150

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 471700

IT COULD BE US Happy-go-lucky lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601

A HIGHER LOVE Looking for that special person, I'm a genuine lady, 54 but don't feel it! I'd like to meet someone to love and care for. Canterbury. Box 857551

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DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

PERFECT MATCH Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462272

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build, Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

PISCES OR CAPRICORN? Starstruck lady, 59, 5ft3, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes swimming, holidays, the sea, W/LTM tall man with good heart for love. Box 448240

DREAMS OF YOU Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 448566

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wears glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE 59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kind spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, W/LTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

SHOW YOU CARE Early 60's lady, 5'2", blonde, blue eyes, likes affection, meals out, cinema, looking for a loving, non-smoking guy in the Brighton area. Box 460636

SAY YES! Brighton lass, 61, 5ft2, blonde, blue eyes, separated, likes going for drinks and socialising, 60's music and going to the theatre. Looking for a like-minded gent. Box 466107

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460802

SOMEBODY TO LAUGH WITH... Loving lady looking for companionship, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE! Single guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131

YOU AND I TOGETHER Easygoing hard worker, 45, 5ft, 6ft, looking for someone to settle down with who's honest, truthful and wanting to settle down. Gillingham. Box 466559

ROMANTIC TYPE Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair. I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613

COSY NIGHTS Male, 45, divorced, 2 sons grown up. I'm of slim build, with brown hair/eyes, attractive. I like walks, socialising, meals out etc. Hastings, W/LTM genuine lady. Box 458979



MEN seeking women

LITTLE BY LITTLE Kind and caring man, 29, looking for LTR with a real romantic, GSOH, kind, caring and honest, sharing good times and sharing cosy nights in. Sittingbourne. Box 472069

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

THE GOOD LIFE Young looking male, 39, quiet guy, looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113

BURSTING WITH LOVE Shy 39 year old man, caring with big heart, looking for that someone to share my life with, into sport, films and having fun. Margate. Box 859647

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a down to earth green eyed lady. Must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH... Hastings. Box 862208

FORECAST? 38yr old male with big heart, big smile, big heart, and big personality seeks caring and affectionate lady for love in all weathers. Box 434270

NEW IN TOWN Good-looking male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, fit, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825

FISHING & CAMPING! Fun-loving male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 450317

JUST SMILE! Outgoing guy, fun to be with, I'm 42, a non-drinker, and would like to meet a similar lady in the Hythe area. Box 466462

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 434750

BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY Gillingham male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158

A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE! Single guy looking for love, 45, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft6, medium build, very caring and loving, likes holidays and theatre, seeks loving lady. Ashford. Box 466131

YOU AND I TOGETHER Easygoing hard worker, 45, 5ft, 6ft, looking for someone to settle down with who's honest, truthful and wanting to settle down. Gillingham. Box 466559

ROMANTIC TYPE Caring, romantic and loyal gent, 45yrs young, 5ft11, slim build, blue eyes/brown hair. I like walks, music, animals and pubs. Hastings/Bexhill/Eastbourne areas. Box 465613

COSY NIGHTS Male, 45, divorced, 2 sons grown up. I'm of slim build, with brown hair/eyes, attractive. I like walks, socialising, meals out etc. Hastings, W/LTM genuine lady. Box 458979

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DANCING THROUGH LIFE Active and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 447711

GOOD COMPANIONSHIP Passionate guy, 57, easygoing, likes going to the gym, looking for fun woman for snuggles, cuddles and more. Get in touch! Box 460043

ANDY TO HAVE AROUND! My name's Andrew, 57, 5ft7, looking for a genuine lady for a relationship, I like travelling, walking, eating in/out, animals and going to pop concerts. Box 448926

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS TOGETHER? Adventurous male, 57, 5ft7, likes walks, animals, eating in and out, camping and holidays. W/LTM likewise lady with similar interests. Box 449963

HELLO THERE! Sociable lad, 59, from Ashford, enjoy motor racing, films and watching television, looking for a lady to share the good things in life with. Box 465067

VARIOUS INTERESTS Tall, slim, non-smoking male, Kent area, I'm 58, and enjoy playing the piano, walking, eating out, W/LTM nice, non-smoking lady with similar interests. Box 466485

CHEER ME UP Passionate, fun-loving male, 57, W/LTM curvaceous, good-looking female, 40-60, for nice times and romantic nights out. Fille from Medway, leave number again, having trouble connecting! Box 400561

RELIGHT MY FIRE! Hi I'm male, 62, an ex fireman, South East Kent, 6ft2, stocky build, retired, I like walks, pets, cooking, cinema, meals in and out. Box 455979

FANCY A PINT? 28yr old chap, looking for a woman of similar age for love and affection, enjoys going to the pub and socialising. Box 466592

SAME AGAIN Easygoing male, 60s, 5'9", quite fit, N/S, GSOH, own home/car, enjoys dancing, country pubs, holidays, meals out, W/LTM lady for friendship. Box 430793

MAKE A DATE Caring male, in his 60's, 5'9", likes theatre, dancing, pubs, shopping, dining out, non-smoker, seeking a similar female for a relationship. East Sussex. Box 462206

Men seeking men

FANCY A TUMBLE? Wrestling fan, 30, seeking gay guy for friendship. Get in touch for a chat. Box 447014

100% GENUINE Straight acting/looking guy, 31, down to earth, blond hair/blue eyes, toned, likes music, films, going out, looking for a nice guy for a meaningful relationship. Ashford. Box 464617

TALL ORDER 40yr old chap, 5ft8, dark, slim/muscular build, good looking, looking for a tall guy for fun. Box 439132

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES Active 52yr old man in fairly good shape, looking to meet a nice man for relaxation, conversation and good times. Box 452249

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Lonely male, 58, seeking gentleman to help fill the days with joy and happiness. Hastings. Box 456320

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your lifestyle

DeNiro still the daddy, says Drew

Co-star Barrymore says legendary actor was head
of the family on set of Everybody's Doing Fine

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De Niro's still the daddy as all-star cast line-up to join his film family

■ BY KATE WHITING

JUST how much do parents really know about their children's lives?

Everybody's Fine, a remake of an Italian film, suggests not as much as they think.

The film sees Oscar-winner Robert De Niro playing Frank Goode, a widower who has spent his life working in a wire factory, earning money to support his family.

When he retires, he realises he hasn't spent enough time with his children and sets off on a road trip across the US to surprise each of them.

He expects to find them living the successful lives his wife had always told him about, but the reality is very different.

As a father-of-four sons and one adopted daughter, 66-year-old De Niro knew only too well how complicated family relationships can be and it was this that appealed about the film.

"I can identify with this stuff, to say the least. I can understand what Frank is going through with his kids and that's what was so interesting to me," he says, in his unmistakable drawl.

"I have five kids and two grandchildren, so I could easily draw on [my own experience] when it was applicable to this film."

He's not afraid of how his children will respond to the film – and whether they'll see their dad in the character of Frank.

"I think they'll see it eventually... God knows what they'll say," he smiles, eyes twinkling.

Such is De Niro's pulling power as an actor, that Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell lined up to play his on-screen children, Rosie, Amy and Robert, and they worked hard to recreate a family.

"I hate those fake Hollywood families where people do one read-through and suddenly they're a family," says Barrymore, 34, whose character is "a dancer" in Las Vegas.

"This was different because we spent a lot of time together so the tactile feeling of affection would come across between us.



PARENTAL CONCERN: Drew Barrymore (right) called movie legend De Niro 'Daddy D' during the making of the film

"With Robert De Niro, I felt I couldn't just call him 'Bob', so I started calling him 'Daddy D'. I wanted to get to know him well enough so that those emotions would happen naturally on screen."

Beckinsale said: "I think we all felt very connected and cobbled together, like a real family. Everyone was full of emotions about the story.

"We might not have had the same experiences as our characters, but the themes of secrets in families, trying to protect your par-

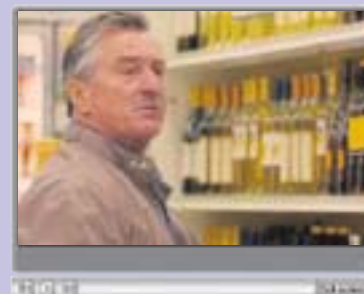
ents and the relationships between siblings was something each of us could relate to.

"It was especially personal to Bob and that sort of filtered down to each of us."

Everybody's Fine was written and directed by Nanny McPhee's Kirk Jones and based on the Italian film Stanno Tutti Bene by Oscar-winning director Giuseppe Tornatore, itself a follow-up to his classic Cinema Paradiso.

"I was very aware of how universal family is as a theme, possibly second only to the theme

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of love, which half the films we watch are about," says Jones, who lives in Bristol.

He admits he didn't have a plan B if De Niro had turned down the role of Frank.

"There wasn't really a back-up plan. I just knew he was right. After meeting him in New York I knew he was absolutely perfect for the role. It was just a matter of waiting for him to realise he was perfect for the role."

De Niro didn't let him down.

EVERYBODY'S FINE 
Certificate 12A

PICTURE: CHANNEL 4



WAITING GAME: Channel 4's documentary about a UK maternity ward is great TV



YOUR TV REVIEW **ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE:** Channel 4, 9pm, Tuesday

BEING a squeamish single man with no sign of a girlfriend, let alone a nipper coming along in the near future, I don't know much about childbirth.

But that hasn't stopped me from finding One Born Every Minute a fascinating watch.

This has been a real eye-opener and is a powerful slice of TV that takes you on an hour long emotional roller-coaster ride each week, so tune in.

A fly-on-wall documentary in the true sense of the word, this shows you what a life-changing experience childbirth turns out to be for those who have to go through it.

The highs and lows of the goings-on in an average British maternity ward actually turn out to be pretty gripping.

Sure we have the screaming fits and the swearing, but we also get to see

■ BY TOM BETTS

the births that go off without a hitch.

Although, a quick note to all the dads-to-be out there: never try and lark about during the process.

Buffoonery at the most dramatic point of a female's life, no matter how well intentioned, will probably go down like a lead balloon.

Steve the policeman found this out to his cost when he thought it would be a good idea to tickle his other half's back with an inflated latex glove, while she was in, what can only be described as, "full flow".

The rebuke was sharp and swift, but you could understand why.

Many of the males who have appeared so far have not fared too well, proving that even though their presence is requested, and in

these times, expected in the delivery room, it would probably be a better idea for them to wait outside, at home or even down the pub.

You must also pity the hospital staff who seem to have a life filled with non-stop drama and stress, but cope admirably well throughout, and often act as a referee between warring partners.

At the end of an hour, the abiding memory is that most women in labour come across as incredibly brave and remarkably stoic in the face of such immense pain and pressure, but are quickly reduced to sobbing, wide-eyed softies when the screaming newborn baby is placed in their arms for the very first time.

When people talk about reality TV, this is what we should be referring to, not Big Brother or any of its now pointless imitators.

CROSSKEYS COACHES

DAY TRIPS AND TOURS

March

Saturday 13th	De Panne	£19.50
Sunday 21st	Yesterdays World & Battle Abbey	£16.50
Wednesday 24th	Ideal Home Exhibition	£28.00
Thursday 25th	Boulogne	£24.00
Saturday 27th	Bruges	£32.00
Wednesday 31st	Kensington Palace	£25.00

April

Sunday 4th	Dickens World	£16.00
Sunday 4th	Chatham Dockyard	£16.00
Tuesday 6th	Montreuil	£26.00
Friday 9th	Tower of London	£29.00
Saturday 10th	Disneyland, Paris	£67.50
Monday 12th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Thursday 15th	Druisillas Park	£26.00
Saturday 17th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00
Tuesday 20th	Montreuil	£26.00
Thursday 22nd	Boulogne	£24.00
Sunday 25th	London Eye, Carvery & Cruise	£59.00
Wednesday 28th	St Omer	£28.00

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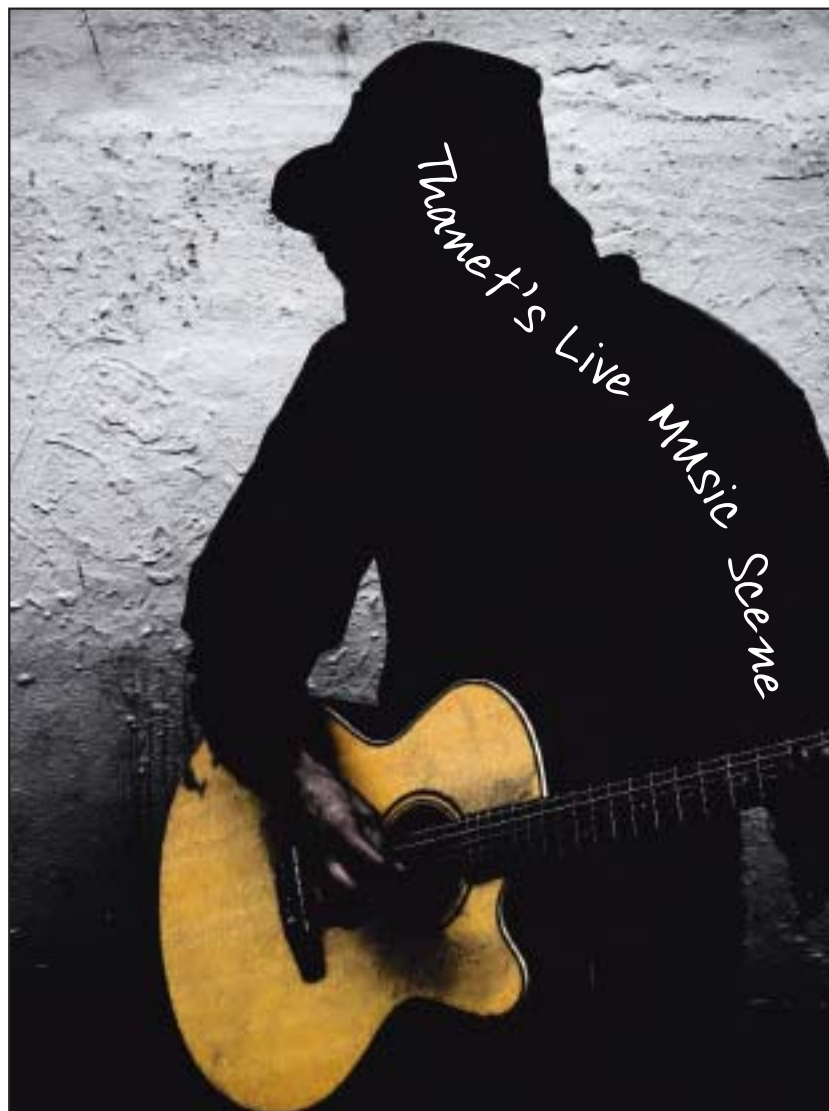
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Saturday 6th March

Where's my Thing

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 6th March

Vinyl Decent

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 12th March

Bad Pennies

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 13th March

Jed

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 13th March

Nearly Famous

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 19th March

Where's my Thing

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 20th March

Salvador Charlie

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 20th March

Werther's Original

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 26th March

Hazy Shade

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 27th March

Left of the dial

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 27th March

Lead Gremlin

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 3rd April

EK1

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Saturday 3rd April

Fling

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
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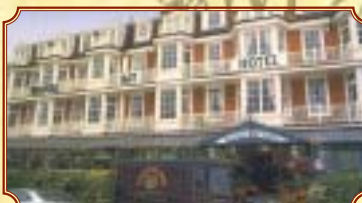
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EVENTS

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LIVE & LOCAL

Earn chance to perform

AUDITIONS are being held for a free performing arts workshop.

It will take place in Dover in April and there are 25 places up for grabs for hopefuls aged 10 to 26.

Auditions take place at Salem Baptist Church Hall at 4.30pm.

To register call 01304 202544 or email doveryouththeatre@hotmail.com.

All that jazz at the Grand

WEEKLY live jazz concerts can be enjoyed at The Grand in Folkestone every Thursday.

The Pete Abbott Group, featuring Mike Austin, Andy Wall, Roger Jeffery and Claire Harris will play tomorrow.

The music starts in Keppels Music Room at 8.30pm and tickets cost £5. For details call 01303 277175.

Opera youth to compete

THE Folkestone-Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society Youth Section present four plays this week.

They will take part in the Brigadier Thomas Competition at Folkestone's Tower Theatre on Friday and Saturday.

Performances start at 7.30pm. To book tickets call 01303 223925 or visit www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk.

Walk beach with artist

ORDINARY people take part in a new piece of work by internationally renowned artist Hamish Fulton today.

The group will walk around the Marine Bathing Pool on Margate Sands from 9am to noon and the walk will feature Fulton's work at the new Turner Contemporary gallery in 2012.

Visit www.turnercontemporary.org.

Music and drama festival

THANET Music and Drama Festival is now under way with a busy programme of events across several venues.

It takes place at Christ Church University, Broadstairs during March.

Entry costs £3 per event or £15 for every session. Programmes £3 on the door.

Find out more at www.thanetfestival.org.uk or email ljmyhill@live.co.uk.

Library for the dyslexic

DYSLEXIA East Kent Support is holding a drop-in centre and library in Canterbury from 10am to noon on Saturday.

The event will be held at Kingsmead Leisure Centre on the first Saturday of the month during term-time and membership costs £15.

To find out more call 0845 003 8979 or visit www.dyslexia-east-kent.org.uk.

Kreme of Kent's crop

CANTERBURY'S Gulbenkian Theatre hosts a celebration of local talent with the return of Kentish Kreme on Saturday.

Eight acts will be on show including Nic Bennett, Five Floors Up, the Overdrafts, Alex Hills, Spygenius and the Flack.

The show starts at 7.45pm, tickets cost £10. Book at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call 01227 769075.



BIG SKY BEACH CROSS

Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7
Margate Main Sands

A WEEKEND of thrilling action is in store for east Kent as the Quad Racing Association's Big Sky Beach Cross event returns to Margate.

Now in its fourth year in Thanet, the weekend has become a highlight of the town's calendar and is sure to provide lots of exhilarating entertainment for all the family. Daredevil riders will be sending the sand flying during this full throttle weekend that will delight both petrol heads and people who are just looking for some gripping entertainment.

More than 15,000 people watched the free two-day spectacle from the promenade last year and this year's event looks set to be even more exciting. There will be plenty of thrilling race action and breathtaking dune jumps on Margate's main beach, where national and European entrants will battle for first place.

This year, the UK Beach Cross Championship will be launched and riders include ten-times British Quad Champion, Paul Winrow. French rider Jérôme Bricheux will make the trip across the Channel to compete in this fantastic event that will captivate spectators of all ages.

The fun starts with a parade both days, followed by practice laps. On Saturday morning, qualifying heats will be held for the Adult Quads and Solos to determine the group in which each rider will compete. Then the action really gets going as the racing begins at 10.30am, starting with the 250cc Youth

Thousands expected to watch some of Europe's finest quad-bike riders battle it out as championship returns for a weekend of mayhem on Margate's golden sands

Quads, with each class or group getting a minimum of three races per day.

Another parade opens Sunday's event before the racing starts, with the top riders from each class going forward to take part in the Grand Final on Sunday afternoon. This exciting finale will see competitors really motoring as they battle to be crowned the QRA Margate Big Sky Beach Cross Champion.

Away from the sand, there is lots more for spectators to enjoy, including traditional seaside entertainment and fairground rides.

There will also be opportunities to meet the riders and admire the powerful machines that have been making the sand fly. Trade stands and manufacturer displays will also be on offer and there are plenty of restaurants, shops, cafes and pubs close to the beach.

The event is organised by the Quad Racing Association with support from Thanet District Council. The QRA Big Sky Beach Cross Weekend first came to Margate in 2007, when Margate Town Partnership offered QRA the use of the beach. Since then, the relationship between the Association and the town has gone from strength to strength, as organiser Tony Nash mentions on the event's website.

"The way in which the town has been so accommodating has been incredible for our sport," he said. "I am so thrilled at the way the first event went and the relationship now formed between the council, town partnership and myself – it can only grow."

As the promenade sweeps above the beach, spectators have an excellent vantage point and this means that the entire beach is given over to the racing. The compact course means that the crowds have a great view of the action and the racing appears even more spectacular.

• More information about the event, including timetables and entry details, can be found online at www.visitthanet.co.uk and www.margatebeachcross.com.





FRANCE FOR £3!!!

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We've teamed up with P&O Ferries to bring you some great travel deals to start 2010! Enjoy a fantastic day out in France with the family sailing from Dover to Calais.

Fares start at just £3 per person for foot passengers from Dover to Calais, or take your car and up to 9 people from just £17. Plus a FREE bottle of wine to be collected onboard on your outward crossing*, now that is a great offer!

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EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH - Beyonce's new fragrance, Beyonce Heat, will be available on board P&O Ferries from 1st March. Be one of the first to wear this new fragrance as it won't be sold on the High Street until later this year.

Take advantage of the bulk buy service and fill the boot with beer, wine or spirits and save up to 30% off the equivalent UK prices. If you cut out the vouchers below you can save even more money. At these prices you can't afford not to go! Plus, you pay in pounds so no need to worry about the exchange rate.

EATING

Whilst on board our Food Court will be able to offer you great quality food at fantastic value prices - a family of four can eat for as little as £24 (2 Adults and 2 children under 16) with plenty of choice including 'Great British Classics' like Fish and Chips.

If you really want to treat yourself then you can dine in style in the world famous London Mayfair's Langan's Brasserie, exclusively on P&O Ferries.

You can sit back and relax whilst enjoying a Costa coffee on board along with a mouth watering muffin or a slice of cake. This is not just a trip with P&O Ferries; it is a total shopping and dining, travel experience and is not to be missed!

WHAT TO SEE AND DO - Stuck for ideas on what to do with the kids during Easter break? Why not take them to one of these great attractions just over the channel. We have some great offers for the whole family. Just cut out the vouchers below and start saving.

NAUSICAA: Visit Nausicaa in Boulogne for a complete sealife experience. There are several giant aquariums and terrariums, discovery areas and regular exhibitions. Find out about whale migrations, sharks, Aldabra Giant Tortoises and visit the Sea Lion reserve and Penguin Beach.

LA COUPOLE: A secret place hidden in the hills around St.Omer, just 40 minutes from Calais.

Visitors can re-live life under Nazi occupation, learn about V2 rockets, view archive footage of WW2 and discover man's conquest of space, a totally memorable and fascinating experience.

PLOPSALAND: Under an hour from Calais, Plopsaland De Panne is an excellent family theme park located on the Belgian Coast. Dive into Pirates' Bay with the SuperSplash, join Mega Mindy in pursuit of the villains on the Flying Bicycles and enjoy a splashing water spectacle in the Jetski.

HOW TO BOOK: To book online visit www.poferries.com/kosmedia or call the P&O Ferries reservation hotline on **08716 64 80 01** quoting 'KOS Q1'.

Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Calls from mobiles will be higher.

Lines are open Mon - Fri 8am - 8pm, Sat-Sun and Bank Holidays.

Please make a note of the reference number you are given. Payments must be made by selected credit/debit cards at the time of booking. Bookings made by credit card/cheque are subject to a booking fee. All tickets are collected at time of departure.



Full Terms and conditions available online at Poferry.com: All offers are subject to restricted space, sailings and dates. Once your booking has been confirmed to you, no amendments or refunds will be permitted. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer only applicable to new bookings. * Free wine voucher will be issued at the port when you check in with your vehicle, and the wine must be collected on your outward crossing. This offer may be withdrawn without prior notice. No bookings will be taken at the port. If you fail to travel on one part of your booking we may charge a supplement. Dover/Calais: If you depart Dover between 19:45 and 5:40am return from Calais between 22:40 and 08:55am, our 'Lite Nights' service means there will be limited onboard facilities but we will offer hot food, onboard bar, bureau de change and offshore shopping.

Dover to Calais FOOT PASSENGER Prices	Sunday - Thursday		Friday and Saturday	
Depart after 07:50am return before 22:00 the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 23rd April- Prices from	£3	£5	£7	£8

Dover to Calais CAR FULL DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Sunday - Thursday		Friday and Saturday	
Depart and return before midnight the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 31st March- Prices from	£19	£24	£24	£29
Travel 1st April to 23rd April- Prices from	£23	£28	£30	£35

Dover to Calais CAR AFTERNOON DAY TRIP Car and up to 9 people	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day	Any Day
Depart before midday and return midnight the same day	Web	Phone	Web	Phone
Travel 28th Feb to 31st March- Prices from	£17	£22	£17	£22
Travel 1st April to 23rd April- Prices from	£19	£24	£19	£24

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Offer code: 7200

EAN Barcode: 00720007

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Offer code: 7853

EAN Barcode: 00785303

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One child goes free for one paying adult
Offer valid until 23rd April 2010

Cut out this Voucher and hand this voucher in with your P&O Ferries ticket when paying for your tickets at Nausicaa. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer, discount or promotion. Voucher is only valid for one visit to Nausicaa and one transaction only.

P&O Ferries
KOS Media Offer
2 adults and up to 5 children for just €18.50
Offer valid for entry between March 22nd and 23rd April 2010

Cut out this Voucher and hand this voucher in with your P&O Ferries ticket when paying for your tickets at La Coupole. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer, discount or promotion. Voucher is only valid for one visit to La Coupole and one transaction only.

P&O Ferries
KOS Media Offer
50% off entrance tickets, €14 per person (Normal price at gate €28)
Offer valid from 4th to 18th April 2010

Cut out this Voucher and hand this voucher in with your P&O Ferries ticket when paying for your tickets at Belgium's leading theme park Plopsaland. Offer not valid in conjunction with any other offer, discount, promotion or advanced booking. Voucher is only valid for one visit to Plopsaland and one transaction only.

yourleisure

with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



KEITH JAMES AND RICK FOOT

Saturday, March 6, Quarterhouse, Folkestone

THE songs of Nick Drake can be heard once again in a sensitive performance by Keith James and Rick Foot (pictured).

Drake, who was only 26 when he died in 1974, left behind just three albums – Five Leaves Left, Bryter Later and Pink Moon – which failed to sell in high numbers at the time.

However, since then he has found a new audience and become a revered figure in contemporary acoustic music. His beautiful and fragile sound is finally earning the recognition it deserves.

Vocalist and guitarist James joins forces with double bass

player Foot to present Drake's music in an inventive and moving way.

Without imitating Drake, they give their own affectionate interpretation of his timeless songs and celebrate the legacy of a much-loved songwriter.

The show starts with the screening of a new documentary about Drake's life and music, featuring Ashley Hutchings, Katherine Williams, John Renbourn and Ralph McTell.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12/£10. To book call the box office on 01303 858500 or visit the website at www.quarterhouse.co.uk.



LIVE MUSIC

Friday, March 5 and Saturday, March 6, Westcoat, Margate

TWO evenings of great live music are on offer as Westcoat welcomes another selection of exciting bands.

On Friday, up-and-coming indie rock band Canterbury will be headlining the show.

Coupling fantastic songwriting with compelling delivery, the band is an emerging act that should not be missed.

Pop punk band Dissolved In will be playing in support and promoting their current release, Forever Is Over, along with LightsGoBlue who have been spending studio time with Enter Shikari.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £3.

It's all hands on decks on Saturday night as Brighton band Qemists perform a DJ set at Westcoat. These DJ performances are as popular as the live band shows from this drum 'n' bass/dub step/rock outfit.

Support will be provided by drum 'n' bass/dub step Skunk Nasti and crew, plus DJ Darko.

The show is suitable for ages 14 and above and doors open at 7.30pm.

To book tickets, priced at £8, email westcoatbar1@aol.co.uk or call 07938 090700.

GERMAINE GREER

Thursday, March 4,
Theatre Royal, Margate.



TAKE your chance to question an international feminist icon this week when Germaine Greer comes to Thanet.

Often controversial and opinionated, Greer is an acclaimed author, academic and publisher. Also a highly recognisable public figure, Greer is always much in demand as a journalist, commentator and reviewer. After 40 years in the public eye, she will be talking about her long career and the ways in which the world has changed.

Greer came to the attention of younger viewers when she took part in Channel 4's Celebrity Big Brother, becoming one of the few housemates to walk out in protest. The show gave her another platform on which to discuss her ideas about the role of women in today's world, views which always make interesting listening.

The audience will be able to quiz Greer during a question and answer session, when she is sure to answer queries in her frank and fascinating style.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £13. To book call the box office on 0845 130 1786 or 01227 787787 or visit www.theatroyalmargate.com.



JOHN LAWSON'S CIRCUS

Thursday, March 4 to Sunday March 7,
Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford



ROLL up for a spectacular show packed with thrills and spills as the award-winning John Lawson's Circus sets up its Big Top.

Trapeze artists and acrobats will keep audiences on the edges of their seats with thrilling stunts, while a troupe of pirates will perform a death-defying sword fight in the roof of the Big Top.

The circus picked up three trophies at the National Circus Awards last year, which are voted for by the Circus Friends Association of Great Britain.

The show was named Best Small Circus and juggler Henrick Veres picked up the Best Ground Act accolade.

The tour sees the return of the Popolino Clowns, Kakehole and Popol, who won Best Comedy Act. No animals are featured in the circus and the show boasts plenty of highly talented human performers that will captivate audiences.

Tickets cost £5 on the first day and £7 on all other days and can be booked by calling 07860 498833. The circus will also be visiting Ramsgate, Deal, Aylesham and Bearsted this month.

Find out more online at www.johnlawsonscircus.co.uk.



THE LAST BALLADE

Friday, November 24,
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



A GREAT romance draws to its close in the compelling play with music, The Last Ballade.

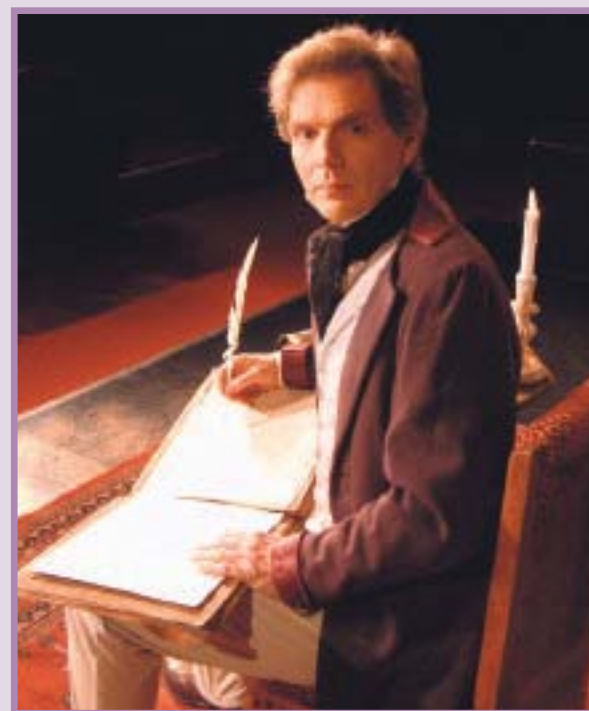
To mark the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth, this production explores the composer's relationship with his muse, George Sand, and the stormy end to one of history's great relationships.

Actor and pianist Michael Lunts brings Chopin to life, as a man and a musician, in a show that will please fans of both Chopin's music and great drama.

Lunts has been touring the world with his portrayals of Chopin for 20 years, shedding light on the life and work of this highly talented composer. Last year he visited the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club with Winter in Majorca and now returns with this self-contained piece.

When Chopin met the novelist and controversial femme fatale known as George Sand, she inspired some of his finest work, such as the beautiful Berceuse, the famous Minute Waltz and the F minor Ballade.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10 for club members or £12 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance. To book call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.



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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Positive development? (10)
 7 Around four, I in France, dance (4)
 9 Spray of liquid hesitantly put on drink (8)
 10 New centre spread (6)
 11 It is supposed to bring good fortune during promising spell (5,5)
 14 Stress identification was included for mishap (8)
 15 Equality of one in political group (6)
 16 Laurais not left another question first about celestial body (6)
 18 Bus reversed in front of garage, not the main one (8)
 20 Employment of persons I arranged (10)
 23 Much liked dog I abused becoming a deep violet-blue (6)
 24 Runs idea about old Roman coin (8)
 25 Present from the residents (4)
 26 Shabby fluff by back of one's foot (4-2-4)

DOWN

- 2 He accepted work in anticipation (4)
 3 Catch onto small branch (4)
 4 Beast having zest, no way, during legal complications (7)
 5 A pair I caught to come up with fruit (7)
 6 Impatient call for rate increase (5,2)
 7 One who was cornered in a nursery-rhyme (4,6)
 8 Archdeacon takes fifth allowance with awe (10)
 12 Happening to be found with said bird at church (10)
 13 Animated greeting to bring one round? (4,2,4)
 17 Some of the correspondents reply (7)
 18 Margery has slip first on mountain (7)
 19 Boaz and Ann rediscovered wealthy mine (7)
 21 Principal way through (4)
 22 Some of the influx especially liked opulence (4)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Unresolved (2,2,3,3)
 7 Bend (4)
 9 Odd (8)
 10 Interchange (6)
 11 Mode of thinking (10)
 14 Counter-argument (8)
 15 Restart (6)
 16 Grated (6)
 18 Sitings (8)
 20 Horror film (5,5)
 23 Former Indian PM (6)
 24 Part of the Atlantic (5,3)
 25 Resist (4)
 26 Rank of one titled iSiri (10)

DOWN

- 2 Prudish (4)
 3 Barricaded area (2-2)
 4 Fool (7)
 5 Advent (7)
 6 Cattle thief (7)
 7 Amicable feeling (10)
 8 Thrill (10)
 12 Execute (10)
 13 June 24th egg (7-3)
 17 Northern French port (7)
 18 Japanese dish (7)
 19 To an excessive level (3-4)
 21 Hash (anag.) (4)
 22 Greek philosopher (4)

YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT


AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

TAKE time to smell the flowers before it's too late. For the past few weeks, you've been working day and night. Small pleasures like good food, stimulating company and beautiful surroundings have escaped your attention. If you don't change your focus, you'll burn out fast.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762


ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

GETTING a little peace and quiet should be your first priority. You're just recovering from a period of frenzied activity. By taking this opportunity to rest, you'll be in good shape for the challenges that face you early next month. Pursuing an interest will be enjoyable.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752


GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU'RE making new career plans, which makes your loved ones nervous. Entering a hi-tech industry will cause your star to rise. It might also enable you to live abroad. Although you hate uprooting a youngster, it's the only way to take advantage of the opportunities ahead.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754


LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

AN intimate relationship takes an exciting new turn. You and your beloved won't be able to keep your hands off each other in the week ahead. Sneaking off to a private location will give life a welcome dash of adventure, but you should still make time to attend a party.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756


LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IF you've been looking for work, you could find an unusual one related to air travel, technology, or medical research. Although you may not have much previous experience in this field, you will take to it like a duck to water. You Librans are marvelously adaptable!

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758


SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

AN opportunity to spend more time at home changes the tone of your personal life. Lately, you've been spending lots of time at clubs, restaurants, and pubs. Now you're able to rest and relax in your own safe haven. If you're been thinking of buying your own place, start looking now.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760


PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU have a marvellous opportunity to reinvent yourself in a radical way. Changing your hairstyle, updating your image, and switching industries are among the possibilities. If you've been longing to come out of your shell, now is the time to do so.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763


TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

WHO you know is more important than what you know. Be sure to network at every opportunity. Have a supply of business cards on hand; you're sure to meet someone who will advance your social life. New friends will introduce you to a pastime that spices up your life.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753


CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

A CHANCE to expand your horizons will fall into your lap quite unexpectedly. This is your big chance to study alongside a respected teacher, chef, or artist. Their methods of instruction will be unconventional, but they will be effective, too. Don't question their advice; just lean into it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755


VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

FORMING a business partnership will give you access to an unusual organisation. In the past, you were forced to take a back seat to people whose skills were inferior to yours. Now you have a chance to show off your talent. A benefactor will give you the funds to launch a project.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757


SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU'RE entering an exciting new phase, one that is filled with romance and adventure. If you have a lover, the two of you will rediscover the passion that first drew you together. If you're single you might meet someone special at a technology store or computer class.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759


CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

LEARNING a valuable skill will enable you to mix with some unusual people. You've never considered yourself to be particularly adept with technology, but that's about to change. Now you have a good teacher; you're able to work equipment with relative ease.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No126

ACROSS: 1 Whistle-stop 9 Knotty 10 Hidalgo 12 Upsurge 14 Lerwick 15 Conjectured 16 Too 17 Pad 19 Bartholomew 22 Organza 23 Pavlova 24 Instate 25 Sunlit 26 Short-change.
DOWN: 2 Hands-on 3 Set free 4 Lay 5 Scholarship 6 Ordered 7 Plaintiff 8 You-know-what 11 Quick profit 13 External ear 18 Digest 19 Beneath 20 Lavinia 21 Mooring 25 Sac.

QUICK SOLUTION No127

ACROSS: 1 Up in the air 7 Flex 9 Singular 10 Switch 11 Wavelength 14 Resume 15 Resigned 16 Jaded 18 Sessions 20 Video nasty 23 Gandhi 24 Irish Sea 25 Dely 26 Knighthood.
DOWN: 2 Prim 3 No-go 4 Halfwit 5 Arrived 6 Rustler 7 Friendship 8 Excitement 12 Decapitate 13 Quarter 14 Dunkirk 18 Sashimi 19 Sky-high 21 Shah 22 Zeno.

EASY

3	1	2	5	7	8	6	9	4
8	5	9	6	4	2	3	7	1
6	7	4	1	3	9	5	8	2
5	8	3	9	6	4	1	2	7
9	2	7	3	5	1	8	4	6
1	4	6	8	2	7	9	3	5
2	6	5	4	8	3	7	1	9
4	3	1	7	9	5	2	6	8
7	9	8	2	1	6	4	5	3

MEDIUM

6	5	7	3	9	2	8	1	4
8	3	1	6	7	4	2	9	5
9	2	4	8	5	1	6	7	3
1	8	9	4	6	7	3	5	2
2	6	5	9	1	3	7	4	8
7	4	3	5	8	1	6	9	2
4	7	8	1	3	5	9	2	6
5	9	2	7	8	6	4	3	1
3	1	6	2	4	9	5	8	7

HARD

9	5	2	1	3	6	4	7	8
7	1	8	2	4	9	6	3	5
6	3	4	7	5	8	1	2	9
3	9	5	6	2	1	8	4	7
4	8	6	5	9	7	3	1	2
1	2	7	4	8	3	5	9	6
5	4	1	9	6	2	7	8	3
8	7	9	3	1	5	2	6	4
2	6	3	9	7	4	9	5	1

yourstyle

Principles by Ben de Lisi at Debenhams

See the stunning new collection in store now...

DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi knitted dress, price £60



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi short-sleeved cardigan, price £28



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi belted mac, price £80



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi belted cardigan, price £40



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi jeans, price £35



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi monochrome dress, price £80



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi stripy top, price £28



DEBENHAMS
Ben de Lisi top, price £25

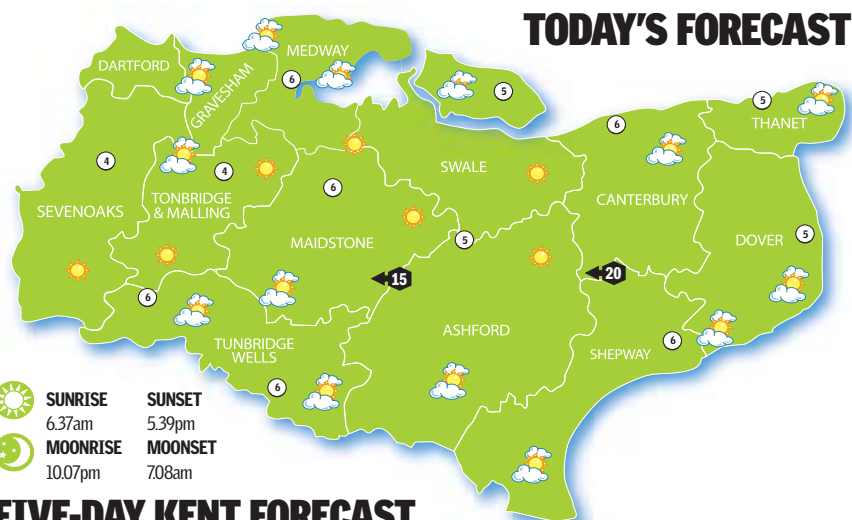


yourweather

WEATHER UPDATES 24 HOURS A DAY @ www.kentnews.co.uk



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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:35pm	5.6m
	Sunday	5:18pm	5.2m
Dover	Saturday	2:50pm	6.1m
	Sunday	3:40pm	5.7m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:51pm	6.9m
	Sunday	3:41pm	6.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:20pm	4.7m
	Sunday	4:10pm	4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:24pm	5.4m
	Sunday	5:07pm	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:33pm	4.9m
	Sunday	5:15pm	4.7m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	6°C	Madrid	11°C
Athens	17°C	New York	4°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	10°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	15°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	6°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	25°C	Warsaw	9°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	18°C

Comedian just won't shut up

FIRMLY dispelling those winter blues, the inimitable comedian Jo Caulfield will perform a stand-up set in Canterbury this month.

The woman who got into comedy after a drunken attempt at an open mike night in East London now tackles topical issues from the recession and how to get out of it, to more perennial annoyances like loved-up couples, in her new show.

Caulfield counts Dave Allen, Billy Connolly, Joan Rivers and Eddie Izzard as major influences and revels in one reviewer's description of her show as a "celebration of anger".

Recently dubbed the best female stand-up in the country by chortle.co.uk, Caulfield is best known for appearing on the BBC's *Mock The Week*, *Have I Got News For You*, *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and Michael MacIntyre's *Comedy Roadshow*.

Unbeknown to many she has also been Graham Norton's head writer for years and has also written for celebrities ranging from Marcus Brigstocke to Anne Robinson.

Now, 12 years after her first comedy attempt, Ms Caulfield is taking to the stage for her fourth national comedy tour with her show *Won't Shut Up*, which sold out at Edinburgh.

The gig is on Wednesday, March 10, at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury. Tickets cost £14, or £12 for concessions. They are available from the theatre box office on 01227 769 075 or www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.



FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	10°C	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C	Gravesend	9°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	6°C
Canterbury	7°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Maidstone	9°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	7°C
Chatham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	7°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Dartford	9°C	7°C	7°C	7°C	6°C	Rochester	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Sevenoaks	8°C	5°C	5°C	5°C	5°C
Faversham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Tonbridge	9°C	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C
Gillingham	8°C	6°C	6°C	6°C	5°C	Tun Wells	9°C	6°C	6°C	7°C	6°C

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W H F is a charity based in Kent working hard to ensure the survival of big cat species. We are an active partner in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes and raise awareness and funding for cat projects around the world.

RANGER FOR THE DAY

A guided tour of site to meet all the cats, including Lions, Tigers, Snow Leopards, Cheetahs & Amur Leopards, an opportunity to help us clean and tend the cats, assist with the cat feeding and to get some really good photos as mementos of the day.



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yourcompetition

WIN! Exclusive tickets to see Sharleen Spiteri

HEART 103.1 & 102.8 is staging a number of exclusive and intimate live events called Heart Love Music Live with Barclaycard Unwind.

Heart's next Love Music Live event will be a once-in-a-lifetime gig with the multi-talented singer-songwriter Sharleen Spiteri at Orchid in London's West End on Thursday, March 4 – and YOU and a friend could be there!

Yourlocal has teamed up with Kent's biggest commercial radio station to give away one pair of exclusive, money-can't-buy tickets to see Sharleen Spiteri perform for you, up close and personal at this special intimate gig.

Following her massive success fronting the iconic band Texas and her UK top three debut solo record, Sharleen is back with a brand new album. The Movie Songbook is a collection of her favourite cinematic show-stoppers, featuring popular songs such as Xanadu, a stunning re-worked version of the classic 1980 number one hit.

To enter this fantastic competition simply email your name, address and telephone number to Competitions@kosmedia.co.uk. The winner will be notified on Thursday morning, so please make sure you are free on the Thursday evening to attend this great

music event. Closing date is tonight, Wednesday, March 3 at 5.30pm.

To find out more about Heart's Love Music Live events, tune into Heart Kent on 103.1 & 102.8 FM or visit heart.co.uk

Terms & conditions: The tickets are valid to see Sharleen Spiteri at Orchid in London on Thursday, March 4. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cannot be exchanged or transferred to another performance/artist and there is no cash alternative to the prize. Travel to/from London is not included. The competition is open to over 18s only.

heart
love music live
with barclaycard



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Museum



* T&C Discount based on deposit being paid on 7th March 2010 - minimum 50 guests.

yourmusic

Love folk? Then you should Coco



MUCH LOVED: Coco's Lovers are gaining a reputation for their vibrant live performances

■ BY TOM BETTS

FOLK is back, and it's back with a bang.

The often ridiculed genre is undergoing something of a resurgence, and thanks to bands like Coco's Lovers, it's not difficult to see why.

Blending a battered suitcase full of whimsical harmonies, clattering rhythms and even the odd hand-clap or two, Coco's Lovers are gaining a reputation for joyous live shows and a musical depth that extends beyond the boundaries of a mere genre of the month.

During their performances you can expect to hear guitars, violins, flutes, recorder, tenor banjos, mandolins fighting to be heard over the sound of an appreciative audience.

The success of Fleet Foxes and the brilliant The Decemberists may have helped to kick-start the recent high-profile revival, but here in Kent, Cocos Lovers and their contemporaries are evidence that we have talent locally to sustain a scene beyond trends.

The set up is a true family affair and features brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, so it's no wonder there seems to be a special chemistry between the clan.

The band has captured the myriad melodies and boundless energy from their live shows with their debut album, Johannes.

With a typically rapturous live set promised from the Cocos, who have supported new folk sensations Mumford and Sons, you should expect a good night if you attend launch party for their new release on Saturday.

The record is being issued through small new Kent label Smugglers Records and the party takes place at the Astor Theatre in Stanhope Road, Deal, from 6.30pm until late.

Six of the band's seven members hail from the Cinque Port town and the Astor hosts regular Smugglers nights.

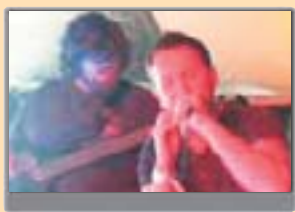
Support comes from the equally brilliant modern blues band Krissy and the Jackdaws and Will Varley, who peddles a fine line of

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yourkenttv.co.uk



Ben Jukes performs 4 Non Blondes' hit What's Up. Search 'Ben'



Los Salvadores performing at Lounge on the Farm. Search 'Salvadores'



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - 7/3 The Bohemian Deal
- 2 Audio Bullies - 19/3 Westcoast Bar Margate
- 3 Save Target As - 23/3 Canterbury University
- 4 The Suspects - 26/3 The Rose Broadstairs
- 5 Foreboding Ether - 29/5 Ivy Leaf Sheppy

well-crafted, world-weary acoustic songwriting.

The party will also include a 7pm showing of the Martin Goldsmith's Folk Soul documentary, in which Coco's Lovers feature.

Tickets for the night cost £5 and are available from Soundhouse Records in Deal High Street or by visiting <http://cocoslovers.bigcartel.com/product/album-release-party-tickets>.

Enjoy the Coco's Lovers music at www.myspace.com/cocoslovers.



VINTAGE VESSEL: The Emanuel offers seven-day tours of around the beautiful coastline and islands of Croatia during the summer months

yourgetaways

Enjoy Croatia in all its glory on cruise around the Adriatic

■ BY PETER BEAL

OUR small cruise ship nosed into a deserted bay on the wooded island of Brac in the Adriatic, and we slipped over the side to swim in the crystal-clear waters.

It was the perfect way to cool off at the end of a day that had seen us explore Croatia's second city of Split, with its well-preserved Greek and Roman ruins.

After our refreshing swim in the bay at Brac, we clambered back aboard the Emanuel, a compact, vintage-style cruise ship which offers seven-day tours of Croatia's coast and islands this summer.

We moored in Bol on Brac, an old fishing port enjoying something of a boom as a resort.

Along the quayside, the local winery produces the local Bolski Plavac, a red wine made from local black grapes, and where you can enjoy tastings.

About 15 minutes' walk from the harbour is the beach of Zlatni Rat, or Golden Horn, a spectacular mini-peninsula of clean white pebbles stretching out to sea that has been acclaimed as among the world's top ten beaches.

We had spent our first night on board Emanuel moored in the mediaeval walled city of Trogir, an easy drive from Split Airport. The next morning, we headed north by road along the Dalmatian coast.

Fishing ports with their red-roofed houses dot the coastline, including the picturesque Primostan, a small village with narrow, winding streets set on a hilly peninsula.

We paused in Sibenik, the most-fortified town in the Adriatic and one-time seat of the Croatian kings,

FACT FILE: CROATIA

Time difference	+ One hour (GMT)
Capital	Zagreb
Language	Croatian
Currenty	Kuna
Religion	Roman Catholic

Peter Beal was a guest of Saga Holidays which offers a new seven-day Dalmatian Island Explorer cruise between May and October 2010 from £799, including return flights, transfers, insurance, full board, local wines, beers and soft drinks with punch and dinner, free bar open for 11 hours a day, all gratuities on board, and some excursions.

- With MV Emanuel sold out, future bookings are aboard The Vapor.
- Connecting flights ex-Manchester from £76, ex-Glasgow from £74.
- Seven-day extension stay at a five-star hotel in Dubrovnik starts at £349.
- Saga reservations: 0800 056 5880 and www.saga.co.uk/travel



to admire the magnificent 15th century St Jakob's Cathedral, which took 105 years to build with stone from Brac.

Further north is Zadar, an ancient and imposing town surrounded almost entirely by water and where film director Alfred Hitchcock, on a visit in the 1960s, pronounced its sunsets as the most beautiful he had seen in the world.

To the south is the 36-mile long Makarska Riviera, above which towers the 5,780-foot Mount Biokovo, a seemingly inaccessible mass of rock.

No-one should miss the historic walled city of Dubrovnik, dubbed the 'pearl of the Adriatic' by George

Bernard Shaw and rebuilt after the pounding it took from the Yugoslav Army and Serb rebels in the early 1990s.

When crowds from visiting cruise ships dispersed by mid-afternoon, we took the mile-and-a-half walk around the massive city walls, 10 to 20foot thick walls, looking down on the red roofs of restored buildings and the streets below.

Croatia has so much to offer visitors: magnificent buildings, a huge choice of watersports, miles of good walking, great beaches. With an expert guide to point the way, its history and heritage is utterly absorbing.

MOTORS NEWS



New Polo Bluemotion is the greenest VW yet

ORDER books are open for VW's most miserly BlueMotion model yet – the new Polo version should average 80mpg.

Priced at £14,445 for the three-door and £15,045 for the five-door model, the car uses a 74bhp 1.2-litre TDI three-cylinder diesel. It saves fuel and emissions through better aerodynamics and recovering energy via regenerative braking and an automatic start/stop system – the car is road tax exempt due to CO2 emissions of just 91g/km – yet can hit 62mph in 13.9 seconds.



Chevy sparking interest in the city car sector

CHEVROLET'S Matiz city car was popular and cheap, but was stigmatised by association with older drivers.

Chevy is keen to ensure its Spark successor – launched officially on March 12 – suffers no such fate. The five-door Spark (£6,945) has dynamic styling for such a compact car, but the American value brand is also marketing it to younger buyers with personalised graphics, or 'Tags'.

Three different graphic sets are available plus co-ordinated floor mats at a cost of £199 all fitted.



It's a last hurrah from Honda on Scrappage

HONDA has re-launched a popular zero per cent finance offer on the versatile Jazz to help customers make the most of the last month of Scrappage.

The Jazz supermini – now built at Honda's Swindon plant – has been the brand's best-seller via the Government-backed £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant scheme, ending on March 31.

Owners of cars 10 years or more old can still get the £2,000 though, plus that zero per cent HP deal over two years – also available to non-Scrappage customers.



ROOM WITH A VIEW: Renault's Kangoo has taken the chassis from the latest Scenic MPV giving it a longer wheelbase than its predecessor, boosting the ride quality and interior

Even more 'can do' comes from the all-new Kangoo

ROAD TEST RENAULT KANGOO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

for a bigger cabin, taking five adults in comfort with three proper seats and acres of space in the back. Back seats fold in one movement for a completely flat cargo area.

Mid-range Expression trim (as tested) brings overhead lockers and shelving, folding tables on front seatbacks, multi-position parcel shelf and folding front passenger seat.

However, the dashboard betrays van origins; it works well enough, but you are faced by a grim acreage of plastic though the situation is rescued partly by the glassy airiness and pleasant driving manners of the Kangoo.

Two 1.6-litre petrol options are available, but the 1.5dCi diesel is the big draw. I like this engine's flexibility and Renault underlines the point by offering three outputs: 68PS (67bhp), 86PS (85bhp) and 106PS (104bhp).

The first two have less than 140g/km of CO2 emissions, so they qualify for Renault's eco2 'green label' though still attracting £120/year in road tax and £110 after 1 April.

The 86PS unit fitted to the test car proved to be about right for the Kangoo, with a good mix of economy and power for a vehicle that may be worked hard as a family troop carrier or even a commercially-operated courtesy vehicle or taxi.



**SEE MOTORSTV FOR
MORE ROAD TESTS
BY STEVE LOADER @
yourkenttv.co.uk**

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What Car? magazine has given the new Superb Estate an excellent write-up in its first review, calling the car "big, comfortable, plush and fine value".

The magazine was particularly impressed by the value-for-money offered by the Superb Estate, saying it's, "cracking value and undercuts the equivalent Mondeo Estate by thousands."



Octavia or Fabia. Happy Scrapping.

No VAT. Ends soon. Don't miss out.

We've reduced the prices of all Fabia and Octavia until 31st March 2010, which means it's like not having to pay the VAT. That's a saving of up to £2,110.43[†] on a Fabia and £3,388.30[†] on an Octavia.



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Used Car Section

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 25,400 miles. £6,795

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Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 11,572 miles. £6,995

Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 24,700 miles. £7,995

Skoda Fabia 1.9 TD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Grey Sports Cross-tuck interior, 42,000 miles. £7,995

Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 34,596 miles. £8,995

Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 46,500 miles. £8,995

Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP Ambiente 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 21,200 miles. £5,995

Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,473. £7,495

Other Makes

Fiat Panda 1.1 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Mambo Yellow with a Grey Cloth interior, 52,474 miles. £3,795

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Bright Red with a Black Cloth interior, 39,350 miles. £3,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet

Finished in Artic Steel Metallic with a Grey Cloth - Velour interior, 86,467 miles. £4,495

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 Special 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Adriatic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £4,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 2-Door Convertible

Finished in Moonland Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 41,000 miles. £5,795

SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDI PD SE (130 BHP) 5-Door MPV

Finished in Pearl Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 92,500 miles. £6,295

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 40,055 miles. £6,295

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate

Finished in Metro Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth - Leather interior, 29,700 miles. £6,495

Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Club 16v 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Silver Lightning Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 33,364 miles. £6,995

Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 16V 180

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Black Leather interior, 32,747 miles. £7,795

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Stylance 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Nayara Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 20,695 miles. £8,495

Vauxhall Agila 1.0 Expression 5-Door Hatchback

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PROPERTY NEWS

Families help out the younger generation instead of saving

PARENTS helping their children get on to the property ladder is the main reason behind the growing property market in the past ten months.

According to one investment advisor, they realise that putting their money into housing is likely to provide a better return than keeping it in the bank.

Stuart Law, chief executive officer at property investment advice group Assetz said: "Parents are coming to the conclusion they should perhaps be helping their children with this money, rather than seeing it languish in a bank account where there's no interest being paid."

More products entering the mortgage market, including higher loan-to-value deals, are also boosting the housing market, Mr Law continued. He predicted five per cent growth for the property market this year, adding that it is dealing with the risks still present.

Figures from the National Association of Estate Agents revealed that the percentage of sales made to first-time buyers increased from 19 per cent in December 2009 to 23 per cent last month.

We're optimistic about repaying the mortgage

RESEARCH by The Co-operative Bank Mortgages has discovered that 62 per cent of the UK's population hopes to become mortgage-free by the time they reach the age of 50.

Either through over-paying on their mortgages to taking advantage of low interest rate deals, 52 per cent of homeowners believed that by becoming mortgage free their lives would be better.

Continuing in their findings, The Co-operative Bank also revealed:

- 52 per cent would take more holidays
- 31 per cent would turn their attention to saving more for retirement
- 27 per cent would change their working lives by either quitting work or reducing their hours to part-time

And looking at homeowners methods for achieving this goal, they appear to be on the right track.

Whilst 31 per cent of those surveyed cited that they aimed to reduce the term of their mortgage through overpaying every month, a further 21 per cent planned to take advantage of the low interest rate environment.



Part-exchange to secure your dream

■ BY NICK AMES

RELOCATION from town to country continues to be an attractive option and experts say such moves are set to increase as the market picks up.

One couple who recently took such action are Paul and Marilyn Jarvis.

They lived in a modern, three-bedroom detached house in Hawkinge, near Folkestone, but wanted to make a move to a real country village, so that their future life was settled in a home that was perfect for their needs.

"We have lived in Hawkinge for many years but there has recently been a lot of new building which has changed the character of the area greatly and we wanted to move to a new environment where we could put down roots for the future" said Paul.

The couple marketed their home at the same time as looking for their dream property but it was several months before they found exactly what they wanted – in the village of Goodnestone.

Dream

"At the time we found this lovely development of new homes on the edge of the village, we had still not sold our own home so it was a relief to know that having found the home we wanted to buy, that we were not going to lose it through lack of a sale on our own property," said Paul.

"The Part Exchange Scheme was very efficient and fair and saved us an estate agency fee. Within a few weeks we were packing up and moving."

What caught the attention of Paul and Marilyn was Hillreed's FitzWalter's Meadow a development offering a choice of homes, all architecturally designed specifically to reflect



HAPPY MOVERS: Paul and Marilyn Jarvis took advantage of the Part Exchange Scheme when buying their home

the local vernacular, which is exceptional.

Added Paul: "The location fulfilled exactly what we had been looking for. We were equally pleased with the quality of build of the homes – the wonderful, 'cottage' feel, the well planned and beautifully presented kitchen and bathrooms and the overall excitement of finding a home that was truly different.

Hillreed Homes have four properties remaining at FitzWalter's Meadow in Boyes

Lane. There is a three bedroom mid terraced house with car port and carpets already fitted for £229,950. There is also another three bedroom mid terrace house with greater living space plus parking at £244,950.

A four bedroom end of terrace house with car port and carpets already fitted is on the market for £299,950. Finally, plot seven offers 2,430 sq ft of living space and is a three storey detached house with garage for £529,950.

Prospective tenants warned over deposit scam

AN increasingly widespread scam is targeting the buy-to-let sector – and it involves prospective tenants who are conned into sending deposits or money transfers to confidence tricksters posing as landlords.

A growing number of would-be tenants looking to find rooms and flats for rent in newspaper classifieds or online later discover the rental unit in question does not even exist.

Prospective tenants are told the landlord of a given property is overseas and as such, can-

not show the flat or room in question, until the potential applicant proves their good financial standing by sending a "secure" money transfer to a close friend or family member.

The con artist posing as a landlord then asks the prospective tenant to forward a copy of the transaction receipt.

However without the tenant being aware, this document contains information which is often enough to allow the confidence trickster to actually collect the transferred amount,

before the proper recipient has a chance to access the funds.

Citizens Advice noted that anyone looking to rent a home should realize that legitimate landlords will not ask prospective tenants to make a deposit before actually seeing the property in question.

But people have fallen victim to the scam, including a student who reportedly lost £1,800 after sending a transfer for a rental flat she had seen advertised on the internet.

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*Based on Nationwide December 2009 statistics



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Willesborough | Price Range £185,000 - £205,000

- 3 Bedrooms, 2 Reception
- En-Suite, Downstairs Cloakroom
- Landscaped Rear Garden

ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531

Estate agents get called many names but our staff aren't just any old Tom, Dick or Harry...

We would like to congratulate our staff for once again proving they're in a class of their own by winning the **Daily Mail's** 'Best Estate Agency' award!

Visit: wardandpartners.co.uk to find your perfect home!

WOW!
3 years
3 Awards



Rolvenden | £182,500

- Pretty Village Cottage
- Exposed timbers - Open Fireplace
- Stunning Far Reaching Views

TENTERDEN OFFICE | 01580 766002



Kennington | Price Range £175,000 - £190,000

- 3 Bed End Terrace Town House
- En-Suite Facilities, 2 Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking

ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531



Kennington | Price Range £165,000 - £180,000

- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Well Presented Throughout,
- Delightful Rear Garden, Driveway & Garage

ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531



Ashford Price | Range £150,000 - £170,000

- 3 Bedrooms, 3 Receptions,
- Off Road Parking, No Onward Chain
- 0.4 Miles Walking Distance to Station

ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531



Ashford | Price Range: £120,000 - £135,000

- 2 Bedrooms, Well Presented,
- Double Glazing, Gas Heating,
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom, Garden

ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531



For your ideal home, contact your local branch:

Ashford: 01233 639531 Tenterden: 01580 766002

Headcorn: 01622 890435

TO ADVERTISE: **EMAIL US @:** appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040

FAX US ON: 01303 817004

- ACCOUNTANCY
- ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA
- AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
- ART AND DESIGN
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- CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS
- CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE
- DOMESTIC
- EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL
- ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES
- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

- GRADUATE, TRAINEES
- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
- HR, RECRUITMENT
- INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSE, FACTORY
- IT, INTERNET, TELECOMS
- INSURANCE, BANKING, FINANCE
- LEGAL
- LEISURE, TOURISM, TRAVEL
- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
- MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS
- MARKETING, ADVERTISING

- MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER
- NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES
- NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK
- OTHER
- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 41-44

Commercial Manager

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector. With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feed back. Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to
Commercial,
PO Box 462, Ramsgate,
Kent, CT11 1AW.

We require part time or full time COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

for Ashford Area and the Marsh.
Applicants must have their own vehicle.
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends.
We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889
for an application form
or E-mail: countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk

RMN Full/ Part time/Bank



Applecroft Care Home LTD are currently seeking enthusiastic and motivated staff for their 75 bedded EMI/Nursing Home in River, Dover.
We are looking for Nurses who have experience of working with elderly residents with Dementia. This is an exciting opportunity to use your nursing skills within a supportive and flexible team environment.

Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company.

The successful applicants must have a valid NMC PIN.

For more information please contact
Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on
01304 821 331 or
Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

ROMNEY MARSH CARERS - HOME CARE WORKERS

We are currently recruiting for Home Care Workers who are compassionate, understanding, reliable, enthusiastic and committed to providing good quality support to individuals in their own home.

The role involves supporting people to live as independently as possible such as washing, dressing/undressing toileting/incontinence care, meal preparation, housework and some assistance with taking their medication.

We offer full training, flexible hours and good job satisfaction.

We will require proof of right to work in the UK, 2 full references, health questionnaire, CRB disclosure (£36) met by applicant.

Please call Claire Churchman on 01932 223050
or email recruitment@enara.co.uk



Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Treatment Worker

£21,519 - £27,849 PRO RATA • MATERNITY COVER (MIN 6 MONTHS)
30 HOURS PER WEEK • ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM PRO RATA • BASED CANTERBURY / THANET

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

This post will involve one to one work with young drug and alcohol users (aged 10 - 18) experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending, and chaotic substance misuse issues.

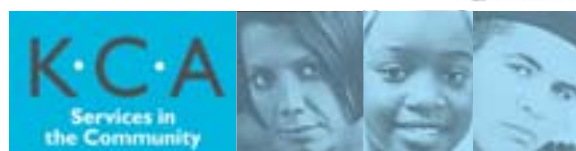
Covering Canterbury and Thanet, we are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working effectively with young drug and alcohol users.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 639.

Closing date: Monday 8 March 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



2 Raywood Office Complex
Leacon Lane, Charing, Ashford, Kent, TN27 0ET
T: 01222 713813 F: 01233 713847
E: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
W: www.kentplayclubs.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1104141
Registered Company No: 4649786

Dance & Sports activities for Children (5-11 yrs) at After School Club sessions.

Do you have experience/qualifications of working with groups of children (5-11 yrs) encouraging them to get involved in dance and/or sports activities? Are you available between 3-6pm on weekday evenings & during school holidays?

Salary & hours negotiable.

This project is supported by BBC Children in Need.
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Contact Kent Play Clubs for an application pack
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
Closing date for applications 5th March 2010.

Are you looking for experience working in a child-care setting?

Are you currently unemployed or seeking employment?
Kent Play Clubs has funding to provide volunteer work placements and support in improving job-seeking skills.

Places are currently available for a 10 week course including 6 weeks gaining experience at an After School Club. Gaining experience will improve your chance of securing employment.

If you are interested, please contact

Kent Play Clubs for an application pack.
01233 713813 or email: info@kentplayclubs.org.uk
This project is supported by the European Social Fund
All applicants are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Closing date for applications 5th March 2010.

Carers FIRST

Short Breaks Respite Manager

37 hours: Salary Range £25,572 - £29,591

We are a leading provider of flexible short breaks, supporting adults and children with a disability or illness, giving their carers respite from their caring role. Breaks can be in the home or in the community.

The task is to lead the development and expansion of the service, providing high quality breaks and giving greater choice and control to those accessing the service. You will lead a team of staff and volunteers, supporting them and developing their skills. With previous experience of delivery of short breaks, you will possess a relevant qualification and have, or be prepared to work towards, a CQC registered manager qualification.

Employment benefits, include contributory pension, health plan and child care vouchers. A current driving licence and access to a car is essential. Appointment is subject to an enhanced CRB.

For application packs email micheala.clack@carersfirst.org.uk
or telephone Micheala Clack on 01732 357555.

Closing Date is 24 March 2010.

Our client is an equal opportunities employer
Carers FIRST is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

DIRECTOR OF MATHEMATICS

TLR1a (£12,114) or L8 - L12
(negotiable based on experience)

We wish to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner to lead, develop and promote excellence in teaching and learning in Maths.

Maths is taught to A Level and 53% of students achieved grades A*-C in Maths in 2009. We are fully staffed with specialist mathematicians.

Saint George's C of E School is an over-subscribed comprehensive school. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 24 March 2010

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

Presland Care Limited**Support Workers**

required to work in
Maidstone and the surrounding areas
Hours: Full-time, part-time, as and when basis.
Car driver with own transport essential.

Presland Care provides quality support to enable
people to remain independent and live in their
own homes.

**For an application form please contact
Jane or Rita on 01634 673 333**

We are actively encouraging equal opportunities.
Successful applications will be dependent on a clear
enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references.

EXPERIENCED DISPENSER

Required for busy GP surgery in Littlebourne
(must have NVQ II in pharmaceutical services or
equivalent qualification)

Hours negotiable.

Please phone 01227 721561 for informal chat
and/or job description.

Excellent terms and conditions.

Friendly working environment.

Applications in writing to Practice Manager, Bridge
Health Centre, Patricxbourne Road, Bridge,
Canterbury CT4 5BL.

**Electrically Biased
Site Supervisor**

required by a Nationally based Specialist Company
working within the Medical Pre-Installation field.
Negotiated Package.

Computer experience essential.

Must be willing to work away from home.

E-mailed C.V. applications only to smiller@avenuebuilding.co.uk
NO AGENCIES, NO TELEPHONE CALLS

**Recruitment Day
Qualified Teachers
and Nursery Nurses!**

- Day-to-day, short term/long term and perm
 - Excellent rates of pay
 - To work across the whole of Kent
- When? Saturday 6th March, 10am-4pm
Where? 12/17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury
To book an appointment call 01227 450995
or email kent@supplydesk.co.uk

London Care Plc

Setting Standards in Domiciliary Care

**Care Workers and
Salaried Care Workers**

**ROCHESTER, STROOD, GILLINGHAM,
WIGMORE AND TWYDALL**

Mornings or Evenings or Weekends

Availability: 7am - 12pm and then 4pm - 10pm
including weekends.

- Full training
- Competitive rates of pay
- Training & development to NVQ Level 2
- 28 days' paid annual leave (pro rata)
- No previous experience necessary
- Must have own transport

London Care PLC is a leading provider of care
support services to vulnerable older and disabled
people living in their own homes.

Contact: Jak or Carl on 01634 828 928 or email
amirul.ahmed@londoncare.co.uk

London Care Plc is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

www.londoncare.co.uk

The John Townsend Trust

Royal School for Deaf Children Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

Residential Support Workers

£15,323 – 18,683 dependant on experience

You will:

- Be able to commit to flexible rotas including weekends and sleep-ins
- Be able to follow written care plans and maintain accurate records
- Be willing to learn British Sign Language and undertake other training (mandatory to pass in first year)
- Have experience of working co-operatively in a team.

You will demonstrate commitment to our Child
and Adult Protection policies and procedures

We are committed to equal opportunities and
diversity and welcome applications from all
groups and communities. All positions are subject
to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure check,
satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and
a fully checkable work history.

For application packs please contact Human
Resources Department

Telephone 01843 227561, email:
hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk

Or download an application form from our
website: www.townsendtrust.org



To advertise in
this section



01303 817040

TERMS AND CONDITIONS**KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even when shrinkage occurs.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of the advertiser.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owner for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publication.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential wasteful action via their advertising.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the increased length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
- a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, the date of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
- All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



Award winning publications

www.kentnews.co.uk

**MidKent College**

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Electrical/Electronic Engineering Ref: P0678

Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333

Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering Ref: P0219

Salary: £30,657 - £34,437 per annum

Medway

We are looking to recruit outstanding individuals to teach and participate in the development of programmes across the Faculty of Advanced Construction and Engineering which includes Electronic, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering disciplines. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in one or more of the above Engineering specialism's. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidates will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Foundation Learning

Ref: SE567

Hourly rate: £22.64- £27.46

Maidstone/Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Kitchen Assistant Ref: P0049

25 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

Salary: £14,588- £16,638 pro-rata

Maidstone

We are looking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide kitchen support for our Apprentice Restaurant and to help both students and Lecturers in the Catering department. A background in catering is essential, plus basic food hygiene and Health and Safety certificates.

Closing date: Friday 5 March 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer





The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

FULL TIME FINANCE ASSISTANT (Margate)

Previous applicants for the above post need not apply.

Closing date for applications – 16 March 2010

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Donna O'Connor, Finance Supervisor on 01843 234281

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards

East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road,

Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

These positions are subject to a

Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



Domestic Cleaner



- Hardworking and enjoy housework
- Good rates of pay, full time hours
- Holiday pay and training
- No evenings, weekends or bank holidays
- Immediate start available
- Manual driving licence is essential

Call **01732 780935**

BRICKLAYERS & HODDIES

required for site in Dover as soon as possible. Must have current CSCS card, also CRB checks will be required.

Please call 07538 064622

Veterinary Nurse/ Receptionist

work involves reception, surgery and cleaning.

Mon 7.45-12.30, Tues & Wed 11-6.30. Alternate Fri am/pm and one weekend in 4 (Sat 8.45-12 & Sun 9-12) No on call/phones.

Prefer with vet nursing experience or RVN, local, good PR and computer experience. Start March.

Ralph Chambers & Associates, Parkwood Green, Kent
Phone 01634 239335 between 3-4pm

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teaching
jobs
online



Experienced and Trainee Estate Agents

Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our sales team in Kent.

If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can do' attitude, good communication skills, of smart appearance and have sales experience then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment.

Please email your CV to:

sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Bairstow Eves Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer

Register your
details
and we'll email you
daily with new jobs
that match your
selected criteria

JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find
a job in the County

POWERED BY
KOS MEDIA

Thanet is a beautiful place to work



Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the new fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

Housing Improvement Officer (two vacancies)

Salary £26,940 – £30,738 per annum

The aim of the team is to improve the condition of housing in Thanet, so that people can live in safe and secure housing free from risks that might impair their health or well being.

We have 2 Housing Improvement Officer posts available. The main duties of these posts will be to meet the statutory duties of the Council with regard to Private Sector Housing, by enforcing national and local standards in housing and to implement a range of private sector housing initiatives, which provide solutions to local housing problems through education, persuasion and the provision of incentives.

One of the posts will focus on enforcement activity, whilst the other post will focus upon pro-active projects and policy work. Please ensure that you indicate which type of post you would prefer when applying.

You will be enthusiastic, hardworking, and be a team player. You will have relevant work experience in private sector housing, building surveying or environmental health and knowledge of legislation relating to Private Sector Housing. You must also have relevant qualifications in environmental health, building surveying or equivalent. Ideally you will be certified in the HHSRS but this is not essential as training will be given.

For an informal discussion about this post, please contact Tanya Wenham Housing Improvement Manager on 01843 577006 or Richard Hopkins Senior Housing Improvement Officer on 01843 577402.

The closing date for these positions is: Friday 5 March 2010

Interviews will be held: 16,17 and 18 March 2010

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VICTORY: Ashford snatched victory with a last-gasp try

Murray brothers put Sheppey to the sword

RUGBY

Ashford 26 Sheppey 23

AN IMPRESSIVE try from youngster Liam Murray helped Ashford snatch victory in an entertaining clash against Sheppey at Kinney's Field.

The hosts made a slow start to the game and Sheppey quickly raced into a 6-0 lead after Brad Box converted two penalties.

Ashford struggled to create any openings, but were gifted a try towards the end of the half. The visitors were forced deep into the corner of the 22 and made a mistake from the line-out. Peter Walsh picked up the loose ball and finished well from close range. JJ Murray added the extras to give Ashford a 7-6 lead.

The home side were unable to keep the lead going into the break as Sheppey converted a penalty on the stroke of half-time.

The Islanders started the second-half brightly and managed to extend their lead.

It didn't take long for Ashford to reply as they breached the Sheppey defence with Paul Cowie's quick catch and drive from a line-out. JJ Murray added the conversion.

However, Ashford's defence was beaten for a third time shortly after as Sheppey's forwards barged their way over the try line once again.

With time running out, Ashford needed an immediate reply and it came from JJ Murray, who used his pace to score under the posts. His conversion attempt crashed against the crossbar.

In the dying minutes Ashford launched a counter-attack through Liam Murray who managed to run the length of the field to score the try of the game. His brother JJ Murray successfully converted the conversion, which was enough to see Ashford pick up two points.



OUT OF ACTION: Lisa Dobriskey is hoping to return to competitive racing in May

ATHLETICS

Dobriskey bows out of Grand Prix

LISA Dobriskey is unlikely to compete again until the outdoor track season begins in May after withdrawing from the Grand Prix in Birmingham.

The 26-year-old was hoping to run at the World Indoor Championships in Doha this month. After missing the national trials in Sheffield in February with a back injury, the Grand Prix, two weeks ago, was Dobriskey's last chance to prove her fitness to selectors.

Despite injections helping the Ashford-born 1500-metre runner to overcome the back problem, with just one competitive run indoors this winter she was reluctant to rush back too quickly.

Pressure

She said: "I didn't want to put myself in that environment and race under pressure if I didn't feel I was quite ready or had any indication to suggest I was ready. I picked up a bit of a cold as well, the odds just seemed completely against it so we abandoned that idea. It could've gone a bit wrong."

Focus now switches to peaking for the European Athletics Championships in July, the highlight of the 2010 season. Dobriskey will prepare for the outdoor season with speed work in Portugal followed by a month of altitude training in France later in the spring.

Winter training can have a significant bearing on how athletes perform during the all-important outdoor championships in the summer. Although by her own admission the last few months have been interrupted by niggles, she is content with her fitness.

She said: "When I look back to last year I don't even think I was running at this time, so I'm quite happy with how things are going. It's just been a bit disruptive here and there, nobody ever has a perfect winter, you always miss the odd week with a cold or something, so I'm reasonably happy with how things have gone."

It is unclear exactly when she will make a competitive return, but if everything goes to plan it is most likely to be in May.



DISAPPOINTED: Leon Camier had the pace to threaten the leaders at Phillip Island World Superbike Championship, but mistakes saw him miss out on two top-ten finishes

Mistakes Down Under saw Leon miss out on top-ten

SUPERBIKES

■ BY TOM HOWARD

TWO rider errors cost Leon Camier the chance to net top-ten finishes at the opening round of the World Superbike Championship in Australia on Sunday.

The 23-year-old managed to claim ten points from the weekend at Phillip Island after finishing both races in 11th place, but felt he wasted a good opportunity to claim even more points after two costly errors.

The Ashford rider's weekend started poorly with a timing error in qualifying which saw him miss the chance to post a time good enough for a top-ten grid slot. He started both races from 16th on the grid.

Camier got off the line well in race one and made up three positions on the opening lap and

began to close on the lead group. He moved up to 11th spot on lap two and began to fill James Toseland's mirrors.

After Toseland's spectacular accident a lap later, Camier surged up to seventh place, but a mistake on lap eight saw him drop down the field. The Aprilia rider missed his braking point at the hairpin and ran wide before rejoining the track in 14th position. Camier recovered to finish the race in 11th place behind race winner Leon Haslam.

The second race followed a similar pattern, as the former British Superbike champion made a lightning quick start and moved into seventh

place after the opening lap. However, while trying to grab sixth spot he ran wide at the same corner in the first race and had to battle hard to earn 11th spot by the chequered flag. Carlos Checa won the race by pipping Haslam to the line in the final corner.

Camier said: "I'm very sorry about all of the mistakes I made. In race one I went off track to avoid hitting my team-mate when I overshot while braking. I then just had to push as hard as I could to make up as many positions as possible. I'm really disappointed as my lap times were very good and I think we could have had an excellent result. We've improved a lot, but I wasted a good opportunity."

Camier will be determined to atone for his errors when the series heads to Portugal's Portimao circuit on March 28 for the second round of the championship.

Town tumble back to the bottom after narrow defeat

FOOTBALL

BY YOURASHFORD REPORTER

Chipstead 1

Simpson 37

Ashford Town 0

ASHFORD Town returned to the bottom of Ryman South after their mini revival was ended by a narrow defeat at relegation rivals Chipstead.

Steve Lovell's Town arrived at Chipstead off the back of consecutive wins and were eager to move closer to safety with another positive result. However, a first-half strike from Scott Simpson proved enough to end their hopes.

The encounter took a while to get going and after settling into the game Ross Morley had Town's opening opportunity.

The Ashford midfielder was unable to find the accuracy as he shot wide after ten minutes. A few minutes later Paul Jones found Mark Lovell lurking in space, but his header was deflected wide.

Chipstead's first attempt of the game came on the half-hour mark and Ashford were lucky not to fall behind as Nicky White placed a free header wide.

A minute before the home side scored the decisive goal, it was Town who nearly got their



MISSED CHANCE: Ross Morley (pictured) came close to giving Ashford the lead early in the first-half

noses in front. Mitchell Sherwood found a shooting chance, but home keeper James Wastell was equal to the effort.

However, Town were forced to rue their missed chance as Chipstead opened the scor-

Ashford Town starting XI



Subs used: Hockey (Clove 86), Dolan (Newman 79), Borchescu (Fuller 79)

ing a minute later. Ray Freeman released Simpson and he made no mistake in firing the ball past Town goalkeeper Scott Chalmers-Stevens.

The goal seemed to knock Ashford's confidence and Town struggled to create any clear cut chances in the second-half.

The main talking point was the caution count, as the referee dished out five bookings in the space of 15 minutes.

Despite the introduction of Ronnie Dolan and new signing Chris Borchescu for his debut, Town never really looked like finding that leveller.

Ten minutes from time the home side nearly extended their lead, but Chalmers-Stevens made a smart save to deny Wayne Grizzle. Ashford's last chance came in the dying minutes of the game, but Jones couldn't find the target with a delicate lob.

Three points would have seen Ashford move out of the relegation zone, but with rivals Whitstable Town winning and Eastbourne Town securing a draw, Lovell's side slipped back to the bottom of the league.

FOOTBALL



RELEGATION FIGHT: Steve Lovell was left frustrated as side dropped to the bottom of the division

Lovell urges side to carry on believing

A MISSED opportunity is how Ashford Town boss Steve Lovell described Saturday's 1-0 defeat against Chipstead which sent his side to the bottom of the Ryman South.

Three points and their third victory on the bounce would have guided Ashford out of the relegation zone and boosted the club's chances of avoiding the drop to the Kent League. However, a 1-0 defeat on Saturday, coupled with seeing rivals Whitstable Town and Eastbourne Town pick up points, left Ashford rooted to the bottom of the league.

After wins against Dulwich Hamlet and Horsham YMCA going into the game at Chipstead, Town were confident and had good possession, but the result left Lovell disappointed.

He said: "We turned up expecting to win the game, but we just couldn't get the ball in the net. We had lots of the ball and Chipstead had two shots on goal in the entire game and managed to score one. The performance was good from us, but we just didn't get the result and it was a missed opportunity.

"We've got to move on from it, the players still have the belief and we have just got to build on that for the next game."

Saturday's defeat at Chipstead saw new signing Chris Borchescu from Thamesmead Town make his debut for the club and Lovell believes the 19-year-old has potential to become a regular feature in his side.

He said: "He's a good player and he comes to us hoping to get a few games under his belt. He is eager to play and was excited to be joining us, I think he will be one for the future. I've told him that if he impresses he could feature for us next season."

Ashford were in action in the Kent Senior Cup against Ryman Premier League Cray Wanderers last night. Log on to www.yourashford.co.uk for a full report.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Croydon Athletic	26	16	6	4	+31	54
2 Folkestone Inv (-10)	27	19	5	3	+21	52
3 Worthing	28	16	3	9	+16	51
4 Fleet Town	28	15	4	9	+17	49
5 Walton & Hersham	28	14	6	8	+10	48
6 Godalming Town	25	15	3	7	+15	45
7 Burgess Hill Town	28	11	9	8	+7	42
8 Sittingbourne	25	12	5	8	+16	41
9 Horsham YMCA	30	10	11	9	+7	41
10 Leatherhead	26	11	4	11	+9	37
11 Dulwich Hamlet	28	9	10	9	0	37
12 Ramsgate	28	9	10	9	-2	37
13 Merstham	29	10	7	12	-10	37
14 Chatham Town	29	11	3	15	-12	36
15 Metropolitan Police	26	9	8	9	+10	35
16 Whyteleafe	28	10	5	13	+2	35
17 Corinthian Casuals	28	10	3	15	-11	33
18 Chipstead	29	8	6	15	-13	30
19 Walton Casuals	29	6	6	17	-18	24
20 Whitstable Town	26	7	2	17	-33	23
21 Eastbourne Town	29	4	10	15	-29	22
22 Ashford Town	26	4	8	14	-33	20

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman Division One South: Ashford

Town v Corinthian Casuals

Skipper nets to help ease Ashford's relegation fears

HOCKEY

Ashford 4 Winchester 2

ASHFORD eased their South Hockey League Division Two relegation fears with a hard-fought win against lowly Winchester.

Chris Smith's side controlled the game from the outset and they opened the scoring through Andy Hill early on. Goals from Chris Pearce, Rob Playford and a strike from captain Smith followed to ensure the three points.

Winchester replied with a brace from Colin French, but it was too little too late for the visitors. The three points for Ashford put them six points clear of the relegation zone ahead of a trip to fifth-placed Eastbourne this Saturday.

The men's 1st XI were back in action on Sunday in a Kent Cup tie against Conference East side Canterbury. Despite the gulf in class between the two sides, Ashford coped with the challenge well and progressed to the next round of the competition with an impressive 7-1 win.

Ashford ladies 1st XI increased the pressure on the top three in the Kent Hockey Premier Division following a stunning 10-1 win against basement side Remnants.

The victory was their first since November 28 and ended their run of six games without a win. The result means Hayley Richards' side are just two points behind third-placed Holcombe. This Saturday they play Bexleyheath & Belvedere in the penultimate game of the season.



IN FORM: Chris Pearce (pictured) was on the score sheet as Ashford comfortably beat Winchester

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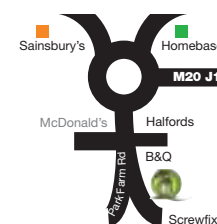


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